

Chapter No. 2020
12/HR12/R1057
JP / CST

***HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 23***

Originated in House  Clerk

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 23

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. CLEVELAND DONALD, JR., AND EXTENDING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

WHEREAS, Dr. Cleveland Donald, Jr., departed this earthly life on January 24, 2012, at the blessed age of 65, to enter into eternal rest, causing great sorrow and loss to his family and many friends; and

WHEREAS, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, and the eldest of five children, Dr. Donald was born to the marital union of Cleveland and Rosia Donald on April 10, 1946; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald's father was a WWII veteran and was instrumental in forming the American Veterans Committee at a time when African Americans were not welcome in the American Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

WHEREAS, following in his father's footsteps and active in promoting civil rights, Dr. Donald served as a youth field coalition leader for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and while in high school, he led his fellow students at Sam M. Brinkley High School in one of the largest protest marches of the period; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald, who always knew the importance and value of continuing his education, enrolled in Tougaloo College, after graduating high school as a National Merit Scholarship Finalist at the age of 17; and

WHEREAS, following the path of James Meredith, Dr. Donald later transferred to the University of Mississippi during the tumultuous Civil Rights Era at the university, and was the second

African American to graduate from Ole Miss and the last to enter under federal protection; and

WHEREAS, during his time at Ole Miss, Dr. Donald was under the protection of federal marshals while he attended classes and lived in a volatile environment, and he responded very simply and humbly to the openly hostile and sometimes violent circumstances he encountered as a student at the university; and

WHEREAS, earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in 1966, Dr. Donald went on to graduate from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, with a Ph.D. in Latin American History and a specialty in Brazilian History; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald's graduate thesis compared the impact of slavery in Brazil with the impact of American slavery, and he was fluent in Portuguese and was frequently invited as a lecturer at the University of Brazil at Brasilia; and

WHEREAS, returning to his alma mater in 1977, Dr. Donald helped to establish the first Black Studies Program at Ole Miss; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald taught a range of subjects and held professorships across the nation at the University of Texas, the State University of New York, the University of Massachusetts and the University of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, serving institutions of higher learning beyond his professorships, Dr. Donald served as Vice Chancellor at the University of Massachusetts and as Director of the University of Connecticut at Waterbury; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald's journey in academia afforded him the opportunity to encounter and work with people from all walks of life, and he was revered by many for his giving and generous nature; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Donald had a great legacy at the schools where he held professorships, his classes left students vying for coveted seats to learn from a professor who challenged

conventional thinking, making people want to better themselves;
and

WHEREAS, a gifted Bible scholar, Dr. Donald valued above all else his faith in Christ and seized every opportunity to enlighten others by teaching the simplicity and depth of the gospel; and

WHEREAS, as Dr. Donald has now traversed the river of life to stand on the golden shores of heaven's landing in a family reunion of the ages with those who preceded him in life's transition to immortality, the rich legacy of love and Christian devotion will be forever and indelibly etched into the hearts and memories of his loving survivors, including: mother, Rosia Donald; son, Cleveland Donald, III; daughters, Krista Donald and Toyetta Donald; four brothers, Judge John Donald, Major General James Donald, Reverend Larry Donald and Master Sergeant Howard Donald; sisters-in-law, Janit, Shirley and Thelma; and a host of other family members and friends; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend the life and legacy of a great educator and positive role model, such as Dr. Donald, who has touched the lives of countless individuals in academia, as well as the community:

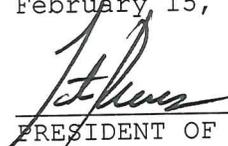
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life and legacy of Dr. Cleveland Donald, Jr., and express deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to the family of Dr. Cleveland Donald, Jr., and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 3, 2012


SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
February 15, 2012


PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE