

House Resolution 1354

By: Representative Parrish of the 102nd

A RESOLUTION

1 Wishing Ms. Carrie Tillman a happy 102nd birthday; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Ms. Carrie Tillman was born in Jefferson County on February 15, 1902, the
3 daughter of Bennie Epkin and Phyllis Little, and her mother died during birth and her father
4 was not around. Her sister, who was charged with caring for the newborn Carrie, left her in
5 an abandoned shack to die, but she was found by two friends of her mother who happened
6 to hear her cry as they walked home from fishing, and after she was rejected by her sister she
7 was taken to her grandparents, Robert and Myria Little, who were former slaves, and despite
8 the hardship of caring for an infant at their advanced age they accepted the responsibility and,
9 against all odds, kept her alive and nursed her to health; and

10 WHEREAS, after her grandfather's death, she, her brother, and her grandmother moved to
11 Johnson County and lived with her uncle where she began working in the fields, and after
12 the death of her grandmother she lived with her uncle Peter Hill in Jefferson County, where
13 she was introduced to slavery by being made to work hard and by not being allowed to go
14 to school; and

15 WHEREAS, her first marriage to Herbert Gillyard was short lived, and her second marriage
16 to Dock Swint, which resulted in the birth of 11 children, lasted until his death in 1938, after
17 which she had a baby girl with Charlie Tillman, whom she married in 1947, and they were
18 sharecroppers on the Gordon Greenway Plantation in Johnson County until 1969, when they
19 retired and lived together until Charlie's death in 1981; and

20 WHEREAS, she remembers farm work with no machinery, plowing oxen, chopping,
21 bunching, and picking cotton, pulling fodder, and cutting cornstalks; she remembers the
22 excitement of Christmas with her grandparents, when she might get an orange or a piece of
23 candy from Santa; she remembers the depression which she calls Hoover Days; and she
24 remembers clearing fields, cleaning house, caring for other people's children, and cooking
25 in a café and her life was shaped by hard work and hard times; and

1 WHEREAS, it is only right and proper that this amazing woman be honored and recognized.

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
3 the members of this body commend Ms. Carrie Tillman for a life well lived and wish her a
4 happy 102nd birthday.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
6 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Ms. Carrie Tillman.