

**RESOLUTION IN HONOR AND LOVING MEMORY OF LONGTIME  
MISSISSIPPI REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIRMAN CLARKE REED**

WHEREAS, On December 8, 2024, the Republican National Committee and the Mississippi Republican Party lost a longtime, respected and beloved leader with the passing of former Mississippi Republican Party Chairman Clarke Thomas Reed, Sr.;

WHEREAS, Clarke Reed was born on August 4, 1928, in Alliance, Ohio, to Lyman and Kathryn Reynolds Reed and was raised in Caruthersville, Missouri;

WHEREAS, Clarke graduated from the University of Missouri in 1950 with a degree in economics and, after serving in the United States Air Force, he moved to Greenville, Mississippi, where he co-founded Reed-Joseph International, a thriving agricultural equipment firm that introduced innovative bird deterrence technology to the United States;

WHEREAS, In 1957, Clarke married Julia “Judy” Brooks, a native of Nashville, Tennessee, and together they built a loving family and a welcoming home that became a hub for political discussions and camaraderie, hosting prominent leaders and friends from across the nation;

WHEREAS, Clarke and Judy were blessed with three children: the late Julia Evans Reed, a distinguished author; the late Reynolds Crews Reed; and Clarke Thomas Reed, Jr., as well as his beloved granddaughters Brooks (Bryan) Henke and Evans Reed, two great-grandchildren, and many other family members and friends;

WHEREAS, Clarke cast his first presidential vote for Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952, marking the beginning of his unwavering commitment to conservative principles, his pioneering role in establishing the Republican Party in Mississippi, and fighting for a politics that projected strength abroad and preserved individual initiative at home;

WHEREAS, As Chairman of the Mississippi Republican Party from 1966 to 1976, Clarke was instrumental in organizing and building the state party, achieving significant victories that laid the foundation for Republicans’ future success in Mississippi, throughout the South, and across the nation;

WHEREAS, Handsome, charming, and peripatetic, Reed was a Cold War conservative, an admirer of Whittaker Chambers, a student of Edmund Burke, a reader of Russell Kirk, and a pal of William F. Buckley, Jr., and Robert Novak;

WHEREAS, During the 1968 Presidential election, Clarke rallied support behind Richard M. Nixon, bringing disaffected Southerners into the Republican fold. In return, Mr. Nixon gave Clarke an unofficial veto on policies affecting the South: “Clear it with Clarke” became a standing order in the White House;

WHEREAS, As state chairman, Clarke also focused heavily on local elections, and in 1969, Mississippi Republicans won nine mayoral races. In 1972, two of the party’s congressional candidates, the future senators Thad Cochran and Trent Lott, were among the first Mississippi



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Republicans to go to Washington in over a century;

WHEREAS, Clarke also played a critical role in national politics, including his leadership of the Mississippi delegation at the 1976 Republican National Convention, where his strategic decisions influenced the outcome of the closely contested race between then-President Gerald Ford and future-President Ronald Reagan;

WHEREAS, As longtime Republican political consultant Karl Rove stated, "Presidents, senators, congressmen, and governors depended on this political pioneer for counsel and leadership. He had a broad smile, a twinkle in his eye and a talent for friendship. He made politics not only consequential but interesting and fun. The light that brightened many a political backroom and convention hall is gone[;]"

WHEREAS, As former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour stated, "Clarke loved politics and was good at it... He kept trying to build the party and elect Republicans, starting in 1968 when there was virtually none in office through the Reagan years, through the Bush presidents, and on to Donald Trump. He saw the GOP in Mississippi go from virtually no elected offices to majorities at every level. He persisted right to the end, ever the optimist[;]"

WHEREAS, As United States Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) stated, "There is no more significant figure in the development of the modern-day Mississippi Republican Party than Clarke Reed. Our state has lost a giant[;]"

WHEREAS, A man of deep Christian faith, Clarke was devoted to his family, community, and the Presbyterian Church, leaving an enduring legacy of integrity, perseverance, and civic-minded leadership;

WHEREAS, Clarke was a respected mentor, friend, and advisor to Presidents, Senators, Governors, and journalists, sharing his wisdom, wit, and passion for history, politics, and Mississippi's natural beauty; therefore, be it

*RESOLVED*, That the Republican National Committee and the Mississippi Republican Party honor, celebrate, and greatly appreciate the life, legacy, and contributions of Clarke Thomas Reed Sr. to the Republican cause and the transformative impact he had on both Mississippi and the United States;

*RESOLVED*, That the Republican National Committee expresses its deepest condolences to his wife, Judy; his son, Clarke Thomas Reed Jr.; his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and the entire Reed and Brooks families, as well as his many friends and colleagues, during this time of loss; and

*RESOLVED*, That the Republican National Committee will forever cherish the memory of Clarke Reed's life, his service, his dedication, and his patriotism, honoring the profound ways that he shaped his community, his state, and his country for generations to come.

