

By: Representatives Ford, Holland, Scott
(17th)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 99

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING STEPHEN AND EVELYN DRURY
2 FOR THEIR COMBINED 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE TUPELO CHILDREN'S
3 MANSION MINISTRIES AND CONGRATULATE THEM UPON THEIR RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, Stephen Drury, President, and Evelyn Drury,
5 Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, of the Tupelo Children's
6 Mansion will retire on May 31, 1999, having devoted a combined 50
7 years of service; and

8 WHEREAS, Stephen Drury, affectionately known as "Daddy"
9 Drury, and Evelyn Drury have been the parents of over 650 children
10 who have lived at the Mansion over the past 23 years; and

11 WHEREAS, under the leadership and direction of Stephen and
12 Evelyn Drury, the Mansion campus has grown from 7 buildings and 22
13 acres to 26 buildings and over 140 acres; and

14 WHEREAS, Stephen and Evelyn Drury have seen the net worth of
15 the Mansion grow from \$576,000.00 in 1976 to \$5.2 million in 1998
16 and contributions have risen from \$144,000.00 to over \$2.5 million
17 per year for a total of \$30 million in contributions since they
18 have been at the Mansion; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1979, Stephen and Evelyn Drury established the
20 Tupelo Christian Academy, a Christian school for Mansion children,
21 and opened it to the community with their largest enrollment this
22 year of 195 children; and

23 WHEREAS, the Drury's started the Abundant Life Tabernacle in
24 1983 and recently purchased 30 acres on the corner of East Main
25 Street and Eason Boulevard for a new church complex; and

26 WHEREAS, in 1988, Stephen and Evelyn Drury opened New

27 Beginnings of Tupelo, Inc., and Erwin Maternity Care Center,
28 saving at least 160 babies from abortion; and

29 WHEREAS, the Drurys have played a vital role in the placement
30 of over 110 Mansion children in "forever families" and over 90
31 newborns placed in the arms of families who wanted a baby through
32 adoption; and

33 WHEREAS, the Drurys will be moving to Little Rock, Arkansas,
34 to work with the Apostolic Church as well as pioneering a new
35 ministry on the Internet called PraiseHim; and

36 WHEREAS, Stephen and Evelyn Drury have devoted over 20 years
37 of their lives to loving, encouraging and caring for hundreds of
38 children; and

39 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
40 and commend excellence especially when evidenced by a married
41 couple who has spent a combined 50 years touching the lives of
42 children and families in their community:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
44 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
45 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Stephen and Evelyn Drury for
46 their many years of service to the Tupelo Children's Mansion.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do congratulate them upon
48 their retirement and extend our heartiest wishes in all their
49 future endeavors.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
51 furnished to Stephen and Evelyn Drury and members of the Capitol
52 Press Corps.