

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING WALTER PAYTON FOR HIS
2 OUTSTANDING CAREER AS A PROFESSIONAL ATHLETE.

3 WHEREAS, Walter Payton, a native of Columbia, Mississippi,
4 played professional football for the Chicago Bears from 1975 to
5 1987; and

6 WHEREAS, after graduating from Jackson State University,
7 where he had a remarkable college football career, Mr. Payton was
8 drafted in the first round by the Chicago Bears in 1975; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Payton contributed 16,726 rushing yards with 100
10 touchdowns during his 13 seasons as a running back for the Chicago
11 Bears, which established him as the all-time leader in running and
12 net yards combined; and

13 WHEREAS, dedicated to his athletic endeavors, Mr. Payton
14 missed only one game in his rookie season before going on to play
15 a remarkable 186 consecutive games; and

16 WHEREAS, throughout his historical career, Mr. Payton
17 received a number of honors and awards, including the NFL Player
18 of the Year and Most Valuable Player in 1977 and 1985, being
19 selected to play in the Pro Bowl nine times, completed 77 games
20 with over 100 yards and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of
21 Fame; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1987, Mr. Payton retired from professional
23 football and the number 34 uniform for the Chicago Bears was
24 retired at Soldier Field in Chicago, Illinois; and

25 WHEREAS, a firm believer that the hope of youth can be
26 nurtured through education, dedication, hard work and role models,

27 Mr. Payton, who has a degree in special education, established the
28 Halas/Payton Foundation to help Chicago inner-city youth through
29 education; and

30 WHEREAS, after retiring from professional football, Mr.
31 Payton has been successful in business through ownerships of
32 restaurants and night clubs, a power equipment company and a cart
33 racing team; and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Payton serves on the Board of Directors for the
35 Chicago Bears, and has contracted to write a weekly football
36 column and hosts a weekly radio show; and

37 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
38 and commend excellence especially when evidenced by such
39 outstanding Mississippians as Walter Payton, a man whose style and
40 moves on the football field have left an indelible print in our
41 memories:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
43 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
44 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Walter Payton for his
45 incredible career as a professional athlete and extend to him our
46 heartiest wishes for many years of good health, peace, hope and
47 joy.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
49 furnished to Walter Payton and to members of the Capitol Press
50 Corps.