

By: Senator(s) Jordan (24th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 93  
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING IRVIN L. WHITTAKER UPON HIS  
2 RETIREMENT AS LEFLORE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

3 WHEREAS, Irvin L. Whittaker has recently announced his  
4 retirement as Leflore County Superintendent of Education, bringing  
5 a 36-year education career to a close; and

6 WHEREAS, Irvin L. Whittaker was born into a share-cropping  
7 family on a plantation in Carroll County, the only boy among seven  
8 sisters; and

9 WHEREAS, because there was no high school for black students  
10 in the area, Irvin L. Whittaker had to live with relatives in  
11 Jackson, Mississippi, to attend Lanier High School; and

12 WHEREAS, by 1959, Marshall High School had opened for black  
13 students in Carrollton, and Irvin L. Whittaker came home to finish  
14 high school; and

15 WHEREAS, Irvin L. Whittaker continued his education by  
16 graduating from Mississippi Industrial College in Holly Springs,  
17 Mississippi, with a Bachelor of Science degree in biological  
18 science; Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama, with a Master's  
19 degree in secondary school administration; Delta State University  
20 in Cleveland, Mississippi, with a Specialist degree in school  
21 administration; and by completing 16 additional graduate hours in  
22 school administration at the University of Mississippi,  
23 Mississippi Valley State University and Jackson State University;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, Irvin L. Whittaker first began his education career  
26 as a biology teacher at Old Salem High School in Ashland, and

27 after only one year, was offered a job as the principal of  
28 Marshall High School, his alma mater; and

29 WHEREAS, in 1968, after four years as principal of Marshall  
30 High School, Irvin L. Whittaker went to Leflore County to become  
31 the assistant principal at Amanda Elzy High School, and in 1970,  
32 Whittaker was moved to the formerly all-white Leflore County High  
33 School as massive integration began; and

34 WHEREAS, Whittaker spent eight years at Leflore County and  
35 returned to Amanda Elzy as principal for another five years before  
36 being appointed assistant superintendent, holding that position  
37 for eight years, before running for the superintendent's job; and

38 WHEREAS, Irvin L. Whittaker was one of 55 school  
39 administrators selected nationwide to be trained by the National  
40 Association of Secondary School Principals in secondary school  
41 improvement in 1968-1969; and

42 WHEREAS, the academic progress in the schools during  
43 Whittaker's two terms as superintendent of Leflore County Schools  
44 may not have been as great as he would have liked, it has been  
45 steady and measurable; and

46 WHEREAS, Irvin L. Whittaker, a bear of a man, has matched his  
47 imposing physical presence with a dedication to providing a better  
48 future for his students, trying to instill in them the same love  
49 for learning that transformed him from a sharecropper's son to a  
50 county superintendent of education; and

51 WHEREAS, Whittaker, both inside and outside education  
52 circles, has been a bridge-builder between the races and is well  
53 liked and respected across racial and economic lines; and

54 WHEREAS, Irvin L. Whittaker is married to the former Minnie  
55 E. Moore, and they have nine children; and

56 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend and  
57 recognize the exemplary service of its citizens:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
59 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Irvin L. Whittaker upon his  
60 retirement as Leflore County Superintendent of Education, and wish  
61 him success in his future endeavors.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
63 furnished to Irvin L. Whittaker and made available to the Capitol

64 Press Corps.