

By: Senator(s) Hawks, White (29th),
Nunnelee, Minor, Moffatt, Hewes, Gordon,
Dearing, Woodfield, Stogner, Kirby, Harvey,
Browning, Gollott, Farris, Scoper, Jackson,
Robertson, Burton, Furniss, Jordan (24th),
Ross, Carlton, Mettetal, Lee, Ferris, Bean,
Turner, Tollison, Huggins, White (5th),
Blackmon, Hamilton, Canon, Cuevas, Horhn,
Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING PATRICIA OWENS FORDICE AS FIRST LADY
2 OF MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, Patricia Owens Fordice, a native of Jackson,
4 Mississippi, has been a source of unequivocal pride to our state
5 as the gracious and lovely First Lady of Mississippi since January
6 1992; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Fordice, refined and congenial, attended
8 Christian College in Columbia, Missouri, and Memphis State
9 University in Memphis, Tennessee; and

10 WHEREAS, on August 13, 1955, Patricia Owens was a beautiful
11 bride when she and Kirk Fordice were united in Holy Matrimony; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1962, the young couple moved to Vicksburg, when
13 Kirk joined the family business, Fordice Construction Company; and

14 WHEREAS, as First Lady of Mississippi, Mrs. Fordice has
15 unselfishly played a significant role in promoting literacy, arts,
16 health issues and strong family support although her primary focus
17 has been volunteerism; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1996, Mrs. Fordice was dutifully recognized as
19 Mississippi's Outstanding Philanthropist for her untiring efforts
20 to establish a cultural, educational and enriching opportunity for
21 the people of the United States by bringing the Palaces of St.
22 Petersburg Russian Imperial Style art exhibit to Jackson; and

23 WHEREAS, for the tremendous role Mrs. Fordice cordially
24 played in the St. Petersburg project, she was knighted by the
25 Sovereign Order of the Orthodox Knights Hospitaller of Saint John
26 of Jerusalem, which is an active charitable organization whose

27 members participate in its many humanitarian activities, such as
28 helping the needy, the ill, and especially children and victims of
29 natural calamities; and

30 WHEREAS, the hospitable and charming Mrs. Fordice was also
31 instrumental in bringing to the Capital City the "Splendors of
32 Versailles" exhibition, which the American Bus Association ranked
33 as the number one attraction for 1998; and

34 WHEREAS, in preparation for these great cultural events, as
35 well as to promote a litter-free Mississippi, Mrs. Fordice created
36 a Splendors of Mississippi project, which was a statewide
37 beautification and clean-up effort; and

38 WHEREAS, the adventurous First Lady's most recent endeavor
39 was an outstanding tandem jump with the United States Army's most
40 elite parachute team, the Golden Knights; and

41 WHEREAS, Mrs. Fordice, warm and loving, is not only a
42 wonderful First Lady but a remarkable mother of four children and
43 proud grandmother of ten grandchildren; and

44 WHEREAS, the Senate of the State of Mississippi finds it most
45 appropriate to recognize and pay special tribute to such a
46 distinguished and elegant woman as First Lady Patricia Owens
47 Fordice, whose dedication to arts, education, health issues and
48 the general welfare of all humanity has had an immeasurable impact
49 on the citizens of the State of Mississippi:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Mrs. Patricia Owens Fordice
52 as First Lady of the State of Mississippi and express to her our
53 heartfelt appreciation for all that she has accomplished for the
54 people of the State of Mississippi. Further, we hereby extend to
55 First Lady Pat Fordice our heartiest wishes for success in all her
56 future endeavors and many years of good health, peace, happiness
57 and joy.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
59 furnished to Mrs. Patricia Owens Fordice and members of the
60 Capitol Press Corps.