

By: Fredericks, Barnett (116th), Creel,  
Dedeaux, Guice, Ishee, Janus, Peranich,  
Simpson

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 102

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING MS. ESTHER COLEMAN UPON  
2 RECEIVING THE 1999 LAUREL WREATH AWARD.

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Esther Coleman, a long-time resident of  
4 Gulfport, received the 1999 Laurel Wreath Award, sponsored by  
5 Union Planters Bank, and awarded to someone who has made a  
6 significant contribution to the Coast; and

7 WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman received a bachelor's degree in business  
8 from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia; and

9 WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman has owned Armon's Restaurant and  
10 Catering in the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport since 1978, when  
11 she was the first woman or minority to receive an airport  
12 concessions contract in the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, an active member of her community, Ms. Coleman has  
14 helped improve the Coast's economy through leadership positions on  
15 the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners, where  
16 she became the first African-American woman in the country to  
17 become president of the port authority; and

18 WHEREAS, in addition, Ms. Coleman is a member of Coast  
19 Chamber, Coast 21, Kids Voting Mississippi, Gulfport Rotary Club  
20 and the Genesis Foundation; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman has received numerous honors including  
22 being named as Business Woman of the Year by Mississippi Black  
23 Page Magazine, the winner of the Pace Setter Award from the  
24 University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast and the Harriet  
25 Tubman Award from the Magnolia Bar Association; and

26 WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman is described by her peers as a true

27 leader, a mentor, a role model and a lady with lots of courage;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Ms. Coleman has been lovingly supported in all her  
30 endeavors by her family including her three sons, Walter, Gregory  
31 and Armon and five grandchildren; and

32 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
33 and commend outstanding Mississippians such as Ms. Esther Coleman,  
34 who has dedicated her life to improving the quality of life for  
35 the citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast:

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
37 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
38 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Ms. Esther  
39 Coleman upon receiving the 1999 Laurel Wreath Award and express  
40 heartiest wishes for many years of good health, happiness, peace  
41 and joy.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
43 furnished to Ms. Esther Coleman and to the members of the Capitol  
44 Press Corps.