

By: Horhn

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MRS. DAISY SHIRLEY  
2 REDDIX, FIRST LADY OF JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY, ON THE OCCASION OF  
3 HER 100TH BIRTHDAY.

4 WHEREAS, while the year 2000 marks the turn of the century,  
5 it also marks a milestone in the historic legacy of Jackson State  
6 University and in the distinguished affiliation of Mrs. Daisy  
7 Shirley Reddix, widow to the late Dr. Jacob L. Reddix, who has  
8 been an integral thread in the fabric of this university for sixty  
9 years, and on April 10, 2000, Mrs. Reddix will celebrate her 100th  
10 birthday; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1940, Dr. Reddix, a native son of Mississippi,  
12 was appointed by the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of  
13 Higher Learning to serve as the first president of Jackson State  
14 under state control; he served from 1940 to 1967; Mrs. Reddix  
15 served as the university's official hostess and first lady during  
16 this tenure; the year 2000 marks the sixtieth anniversary of  
17 Jackson State University as a state institution; and

18 WHEREAS, born high in Jamaica's legendary Blue Mountains at  
19 Shirley Castle which bears the family name, Daisy Uvasine Shirley  
20 (Reddix), is the twelfth of twelve children and sole survivor of  
21 Samuel Laidley Shirley and Anne Isabella Silvera Shirley; she is  
22 believed to be the "oldest known living Shirley," the Shirleys of  
23 England are one of the three oldest English families and trace  
24 their lineage back prior to the Crusades, the Shirley Clan  
25 celebrated 900 years in 1986; and

26 WHEREAS, at the age of fifteen, young Daisy Shirley migrated

27 to America and joined a brother, George, and sister, Margaret, in  
28 Evanston, Illinois; in 1919, she became a United States citizen at  
29 the age of nineteen; and

30 WHEREAS, Mrs. Reddix continued her education in America at  
31 Evanston Township High School and Evanston Business College; she  
32 later earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Jackson  
33 State College in 1953 and her late husband, Dr. Reddix, conferred  
34 this degree as President of Jackson State; and

35 WHEREAS, professionally, Mrs. Reddix worked in Business  
36 Office Management in Chicago and Evanston, Illinois, during the  
37 early twenties; this included employment with the Overton Hygienic  
38 Company established by noted minority Chicago entrepreneur,  
39 Anthony Overton; between 1928 and 1940, following their marriage,  
40 the two worked in the public school system of Gary, Indiana, at  
41 Roosevelt High School; Mrs. Reddix was chief clerk in the business  
42 office and Dr Reddix headed the Department of Mathematics; during  
43 her twenty-seven years at Jackson State, Mrs. Reddix was employed  
44 in the Jackson State University business office until her  
45 retirement; and

46 WHEREAS, she is an active member of Fairish Street Baptist  
47 Church; she also remains active in many civic, social and  
48 university activities; among these are life member, Alpha Kappa  
49 Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Beta Delta Omega Chapter, The  
50 Jackson Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, Mary Church Terrell  
51 Literary Club, the Harmonia Music Club and the Jackson State  
52 University Development Foundation; she loves family, friends,  
53 reading, music and travel, and wants to "go back to Jamaica, once  
54 more"; she gains strength through her faith and strong belief in  
55 the Almighty; and

56 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we, along with well  
57 wishers throughout the United States and abroad, recognize this  
58 landmark event in the life of someone who has brought such honor  
59 and dignity to her community, her university and to the State of

60 Mississippi:

61           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
62 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Daisy  
63 Shirley Reddix, first lady of Jackson State University, upon the  
64 occasion of her 100th birthday, and extend the best wishes and  
65 prayers of the Legislature.

66           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
67 presented to Mrs. Reddix and her family and the President of  
68 Jackson State University, and be made available to the Capitol  
69 Press Corps.