

By: Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING WALTER BOOKER UPON HIS
2 RETIREMENT AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY
3 AND EXPRESSING THE THANKS OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF
4 DEDICATED STATE SERVICE.

5 WHEREAS, on August 27, 2000, Walter Booker will retire as
6 Superintendent of the Mississippi State Penitentiary following a
7 30-year career in the field of corrections and social service; and

8 WHEREAS, in July of 1997, Superintendent Booker was appointed
9 Superintendent of the Mississippi State Penitentiary, the position
10 in which he currently serves; the Mississippi State Penitentiary
11 encompasses approximately 15,000 acres of land, has an inmate
12 population capacity of 5,700, a security and support staff of
13 approximately 2,000 and an annual budget of \$80,000,000.00; and

14 WHEREAS, the Mississippi State Penitentiary is the largest
15 prison in the State of Mississippi and has been designated the
16 Maximum Security Prison of the state and during the last year,
17 Superintendent Booker has been working diligently to get the
18 97-year old institution ready for ACA Accreditation and to
19 standardize job classifications within the department; and

20 WHEREAS, Walter Booker was born in Bobo, Mississippi, and
21 graduated from Mississippi Valley State University in 1971, with a
22 Bachelor Degree in Social Science and a minor in Sociology; he
23 also did graduate work at Delta State University; and

24 WHEREAS, Superintendent Booker began his post-college
25 professional career as a Social Worker for the Coahoma County,
26 Mississippi, Early Childhood Development Program, where he was
27 promoted to Director of Social Services within a year of his

28 employment with that agency; and

29 WHEREAS, Superintendent Booker began his career with the
30 Mississippi Department of Corrections as the Assistant Director of
31 the Job Placement Center for incarcerated offenders, where he was
32 assigned for three years; from 1981 to 1988, Superintendent Booker
33 served as Unit Case Manager and Case Manager Supervisor; in
34 September of 1988, Superintendent Booker was promoted to warden of
35 a sub-area of the Mississippi State Penitentiary, which housed
36 death row inmates, maximum security and medium custody inmates;
37 for the next 7-1/2 years, Superintendent Booker served as warden
38 of every sub-area of the Mississippi State Penitentiary; although
39 Superintendent Booker was warden over high security risk inmates,
40 in a period of 7-1/2 years only one inmate escaped from his area
41 of responsibility; in 1995, Superintendent Booker was assigned to
42 the position of Warden of Treatment Services at the Mississippi
43 State Penitentiary and served in this capacity until January of
44 1997; while serving as Warden of Treatment Services,
45 Superintendent Booker was instrumental in initiating the Alcohol
46 and Drug Therapeutic Community at the Mississippi State
47 Penitentiary; in January of 1997, Superintendent Booker was
48 assigned to the position of Warden/Chief of Security of the
49 Mississippi State Penitentiary where he served until July of 1997;
50 and

51 WHEREAS, he is a former member of the Clarksdale, Coahoma
52 County Junior Chamber of Commerce; former President of the Coahoma
53 County Headstart Parent Association; former Vice President of the
54 Mississippi Headstart Parent Association; current member of the
55 Mississippi Association of Professionals in Corrections; provided
56 the leadership to the United Way and Muscular Dystrophy
57 Associations and is a veteran of the United States Army obtaining
58 the rank of Sergeant E5; and

59 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
60 outstanding and dedicated professional service and civic
61 accomplishments of this Mississippian:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
64 we do hereby commend Walter Booker upon his retirement as

65 Superintendent of the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman,
66 Mississippi, express the thanks of the Legislature for his many
67 years of dedicated state service and wish Walter and his family
68 continued success in his future endeavors:

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
70 presented to Mr. Walter Booker and his family and be made
71 available to the Commissioner of the Mississippi Department of
72 Corrections and the Capitol Press Corps.