

By: Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING WALTER BOOKER UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS
2 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY AND
3 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

employment with that agency; and

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Walter Booker upon his retirement as Superintendent of the Mississippi State Penitentiary

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

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