

By: Representatives Young, Brown

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 95

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES' LONGTIME EXECUTIVE  
3 DIRECTOR, DR. OLON RAY, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 40  
4 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Olon E. Ray announced plans of retirement from  
6 his position as Executive Director of the State Board for  
7 Community and Junior Colleges; and

8 WHEREAS, since October 1, 1990, Dr. Ray has been Executive  
9 Director of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges,  
10 working with a ten-member board in the coordination of the state's  
11 15 public community and junior colleges, overseeing and executing  
12 the policies of the board and other programs specified by statutes  
13 of Mississippi; and

14 WHEREAS, under his leadership the board has experienced an  
15 unprecedented growth in the numbers of students served, from  
16 48,306 to 53,669, and an increase in its budget from approximately  
17 \$72 million to \$187 million; and

18 WHEREAS, after receiving his bachelor's degree in 1962, from  
19 the University of Mississippi, Dr. Ray began his professional work  
20 in education as a history teacher at Biloxi High School, remaining  
21 until 1964, when he left in order to teach at Jackson Central High  
22 School for one year before returning to Biloxi to begin  
23 administrative work as Assistant to the Superintendent; and

24 WHEREAS, named Assistant Superintendent of the Biloxi Public  
25 School District in 1970, Dr. Ray became Superintendent of the  
26 district in 1975, serving 13 years before resigning in 1988, to  
27 accept the position of Special Assistant for Education in the  
28 Governor's Office, under the administration of Governor Ray Mabus,



29 where he remained for two years before accepting his present  
30 position; and

31 WHEREAS, while Superintendent of the Biloxi schools, Dr. Ray  
32 was appointed by Governor William Winter to serve as Chairman of  
33 the Performance-Based School Accreditation Task Force of  
34 Mississippi, created by the State Legislature under the Education  
35 Act of 1982, implementing for the first time in the history of  
36 American education, school accreditation tied to educational  
37 performance of students in certain critical areas; and

38 WHEREAS, as Special Assistant for Education to Governor Ray  
39 Mabus, Dr. Ray attended, as the Assistant to the Governor,  
40 President George Bush's 1989 Summit on Education, in  
41 Charlottesville, Virginia, participated and contributed to the  
42 National Governors Association Advisory Committee on National  
43 Goals in 1989 and 1990, and helped develop, prepare and pass the  
44 legislation known by the title "Mississippi's BEST"; and

45 WHEREAS, Dr. Ray's selected civil and professional awards and  
46 honors include: Outstanding Educational Administrator of  
47 Mississippi, 1976; Mississippi Man of the Year Award, 1989;  
48 Harrison County United Way Leadership Award, 1971; Outstanding  
49 Young Man of Biloxi, 1972; Boss of the Year, 1982; Chairman,  
50 Biloxi Bicentennial Commission, 1976; President, Harrison County  
51 United Way, 1983; District Governor, Lions International;  
52 appointed member of the State of Mississippi Parole Board, 1977;  
53 Mississippi Community Education Award, 1982; Chairman, Education  
54 Committee, Mississippi Economic Council, 1982; Ed Ransdell Media  
55 Award, 1984; Outstanding Alumni for Louisiana, Mississippi  
56 District, January 1996; Phi Theta Kappa Board for Directors Alumni  
57 Award, April 1995; and MAACE Friend of Education Award, June 1995;  
58 and

59 WHEREAS, a native Mississippian, Dr. Ray received his formal  
60 education in the public school system, graduated from Weir High  
61 School, and attended Northwest Mississippi Community College



62 before earning degrees from the University of Mississippi and the  
63 University of Southern Mississippi; and

64 WHEREAS, Dr. Ray is married to the former Ann Traylor, of  
65 Sumrall, Mississippi, who has remained faithful in the support of  
66 his every endeavor; and

67 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to acknowledge  
68 greatness in such outstanding Mississippians as Dr. Ray, whose  
69 legacy of service and longtime oversight in the field of public  
70 education and in state government has been greatly appreciated by  
71 the citizens of this state:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
73 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
74 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate State Board  
75 for Community and Junior Colleges longtime Executive Director, Dr.  
76 Olon Ray, on the occasion of his retirement after 40 years of  
77 dedicated public service, and wish him and his wife, Ann, the best  
78 as he returns to private life.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
80 furnished to Dr. Olon Ray, the State Board for Community and  
81 Junior Colleges and the Capitol Press Corps.

