

By: Representatives Janus, Barnett (116th),
Broomfield, Compretta, Creel, Dedeaux,
Fredericks, Guice, Hamilton, Ishee, Maples,
Peranich, Read, Simpson, Wells-Smith, Zuber

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 80

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR.
2 WILLIAM H. "BILLY" CREEL AND EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO
3 HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. William H. "Billy" Creel, a native of Biloxi,
5 Mississippi, departed this life on Saturday, March 30, 2002,
6 causing a great loss to his family and friends; and

7 WHEREAS, the youngest of six brothers, Mr. Creel began his
8 career in the hospitality industry in 1963 as a bellman at the
9 Buena Vista Hotel and eventually worked his way up to front office
10 manager; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1965, Mr. Creel was recruited by the Broadwater
12 Beach Hotel, the premier property of the Gulf Coast at that time,
13 where he worked for 10 years; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Creel became general manager of the Biloxi
15 Hilton when it opened adjacent to the Broadwater in 1977,
16 remaining the next 18 years, keeping the franchise afloat in a
17 nationwide recession and eventual bankruptcy; and

18 WHEREAS, after 30 years of experience in the hospitality
19 industry, Mr. Creel was first hired by the Isle of Capri Casino in
20 their marketing department, soon after to be promoted to Director
21 of Community Development and Special Events and eventually Senior
22 Director of Operations; and

23 WHEREAS, as a 19-year member of the Harrison County Tourism
24 Commission and former member of the Mississippi Coast Coliseum
25 Commission, Mr. Creel established himself as a constant and
26 effective voice for the Coast with state legislators and state
27 tourism leaders; and



28 WHEREAS, as a result of his many accomplishments, the
29 Harrison County Tourism Commission and other community leaders in
30 1997, recognized Mr. Creel as "Mr. Gulf Coast Tourism" and
31 established an award, the "Billy Creel Tourism Award," to annually
32 recognize local individuals for outstanding service to the local
33 tourism industry; and

34 WHEREAS, in addition, Mr. Creel was recognized by Biloxi
35 Mayor A.J. Holloway with the first-ever "Spirit of Biloxi Award"
36 in recognition of his many contributions to the success of
37 Biloxi's tourism industry; and

38 WHEREAS, Mr. Creel has also received several other awards,
39 including his selection as Hotel Manager of the Year in 1990 by
40 the Mississippi Hotel-Motel Association; awarded the Cy Burnett
41 Award for outstanding service to the hotel-motel industry by the
42 Mississippi Hotel-Motel Association in 1994; and was named as a
43 delegate to the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism in
44 1995; and

45 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
46 recognize and pay special tribute to outstanding Mississippians
47 such as Mr. Creel, who dedicated his life to improving the tourism
48 industry on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
50 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
51 commend the life and accomplishments of Mr. William H. "Billy"
52 Creel and express our deepest sympathy to his family and friends
53 upon his passing.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
55 furnished to the family of Mr. William H. Creel and to the members
56 of the Capitol Press Corps.

