

By: Senator(s) Walls, Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF  
2 POPULAR MAYOR ERIC "RED" HOLMES OF SHELBY, MISSISSIPPI, AND  
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, Shelby, Mississippi, is mourning the untimely loss  
5 of Mayor Eric "Red" Holmes, who departed this earthly life on  
6 Monday, March 11, 2002; and

7 WHEREAS, this young leader was energetic, intelligent, strong  
8 and aggressive, and few people could have accomplished what Mayor  
9 Holmes did in less than two terms of office; and

10 WHEREAS, Eric began working to achieve his vision immediately  
11 after being elected for his first term; the young mayor was  
12 determined to improve the quality of life in Shelby for all  
13 citizens; and

14 WHEREAS, he always felt that improving the future and  
15 protecting the youth in the community was the most important goal,  
16 and aggressively pursued grants for improving youth services. He  
17 served as a high school football and basketball official, and  
18 started Little League softball for boys in Winstonville,  
19 Mississippi. Mayor Holmes was not afraid to exchange his suit and  
20 tie for blue jeans and a tool belt to work on a youth project when  
21 necessary; and

22 WHEREAS, Shelby municipal employees praised Mayor Holmes for  
23 obtaining membership in the Mississippi Retirement System and  
24 group health and life insurance benefits for all city employees  
25 during his first term; he acquired over \$2 Million in grants for  
26 the city that funded everything from the construction of Shelby  
27 City Park to new city vehicles; and as a member of the Board of



28 Directors of the Fannie Mae Foundation, he continued his efforts  
29 to make sure all citizens of Shelby could afford housing, a  
30 concern which resulted in his appointment to the Delta Summit  
31 Steering Committee by Governor Ronnie Musgrove; and

32 WHEREAS, he was a 1983 graduate of John F. Kennedy High  
33 School in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, and received a full  
34 scholarship to Mississippi Valley State University, graduating  
35 with a degree in Political Science in 1986 after serving as  
36 Student Government Association President; and

37 WHEREAS, he was the President of the Mississippi Conference  
38 of Black Mayors, one of the most influential political  
39 organizations in the state, and he was slated to serve on the  
40 National Conference of Black Mayors Board of Directors; and

41 WHEREAS, in addition to his duties as Mayor, membership in  
42 various political and charitable organizations and service as  
43 Associate Minister and Deacon at Mount Moriah M.B. Church in  
44 Winstonville, Holmes was employed by the Mississippi Department of  
45 Corrections as a pre-release counselor at the Mississippi State  
46 Penitentiary in Parchman; and

47 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife, Sheila Jones  
48 Holmes; he is survived by two children, Erica Holmes and Eric  
49 Johnson; his mother and stepfather, Maud and Larry Hemphill of  
50 Winstonville; father, Charles Bonds of Winstonville; and many  
51 friends, neighbors and supporters; and

52 WHEREAS, he was a true servant to the community; his  
53 accomplishments are that of a lifelong leader, and it is with  
54 sadness that we note the passing of one of the finest leaders in  
55 the Delta who brought honor to his community and to the State of  
56 Mississippi:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
58 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life and public service  
59 of popular Mayor Eric "Red" Holmes of Shelby, Mississippi, and



60 express the sympathy of the Legislature to his surviving family  
61 and friends on his passing.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
63 presented to the surviving family of Mayor Holmes at the services  
64 at Shelby Broad Street High School, be forwarded to the Board of  
65 Aldermen of Shelby, Mississippi, and be made available to the  
66 Capitol Press Corps.

