

By: Senator(s) Gordon

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 77

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF DONNA
2 DYE UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER 26 YEARS OF SERVICE
3 TO THE OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM AND THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
4 ARCHIVES AND HISTORY.

5 WHEREAS, after 26 years of dedicated service to the Old
6 Capitol Museum and the Department of Archives and History, Donna
7 Dye has elected to retire; and

8 WHEREAS, Donna has brought great energy and commitment to
9 every position she has held at the Department of Archives and
10 History; and

11 WHEREAS, Donna came to the department in 1973 as a volunteer
12 docent; and

13 WHEREAS, she has held a wide range of positions on the museum
14 staff, including historian, programs coordinator and programs
15 historian; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1977, in just her second year on the staff, Donna
17 took the lead in planning for and opening the Old Capitol
18 Bookstore, which is now the Old Capitol Shop; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1992, Donna was named Director of the Museum
20 Division with responsibility over the Old Capitol Museum, the
21 Manship House Museum, and the curatorial functions at the
22 Governor's Mansion and the State Capitol; and

23 WHEREAS, highlights of Donna's tenure as Director include the
24 1997 opening of the Old Capitol Museum's new permanent exhibit
25 *Mississippi 1500-1800* and the Old Capitol's selection in 2001 as
26 one of the nation's first Smithsonian Affiliates; and

27 WHEREAS, since the death of Eudora Welty in July 2001, Donna
28 has been instrumental in coordinating the work of the department



29 and the Eudora Welty Foundation in planning for the opening of the
30 Eudora Welty House Museum; and

31 WHEREAS, Donna's leadership in the historical community
32 extends well beyond her work with the department; and

33 WHEREAS, Donna has been an active member of the Mississippi
34 Historical Society, serving with dedication on the Board of
35 Directors and on numerous committees; and

36 WHEREAS, Donna has also generously given her time and energy
37 to the Mississippi Heritage Trust, the Mississippi Museums
38 Association, the Southeastern Museums Conference, the American
39 Association for State and Local History, and countless civic
40 organizations in Jackson; and

41 WHEREAS, Donna's education background, activities and
42 affiliations are extensive, and she is the mother of three
43 accomplished sons, grandmother of two and, of course, is married
44 to Honorable Brad Dye, former Lieutenant Governor of the State of
45 Mississippi and President of the Mississippi Senate for 12 years;
46 and

47 WHEREAS, Donna is appreciated by her many friends at the
48 Mississippi Senate and at the Department of Archives and History
49 not just for her dedication to her work and her love of history,
50 but also for her lively sense of humor and her gracious southern
51 manners:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
53 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the legacy of public
54 service of Donna Dye upon the occasion of her retirement after 26
55 years of service to the Old Capitol Museum and the Mississippi
56 Department of Archives and History, and thank her for her
57 exceptional service to the State of Mississippi, wishing her
58 success in all her future endeavors.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
60 presented to Donna Dye and her family, be forwarded to the



61 Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Archives and
62 History and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

