

By: Senator(s) Gordon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING  
2 SOUTHWEST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT HORACE C. HOLMES  
3 FOR HIS 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THIS INSTITUTION AND TO THE  
4 COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE SYSTEM.

5 WHEREAS, for many people, Southwest Mississippi Community  
6 College and Horace C. Holmes are synonymous. Under his  
7 leadership, Southwest has become a respected member of the  
8 community college system, and this year President Holmes  
9 celebrates 55 years in education, 50 of those at Southwest where  
10 he has influenced the lives of thousands.

11 WHEREAS, President Holmes came to Southwest to assume the  
12 position of Psychology instructor and boys' basketball coach in  
13 1953 after a five-year tenure as coach at Johnston Station and  
14 Loyd Star High Schools, and what was to be a one-year stay evolved  
15 into a half century. He became the Dean of Men in 1955 while  
16 continuing his teaching responsibilities, and in 1957 he became  
17 assistant to the president. By 1962, Holmes was Dean of  
18 Instruction, a role he continued until July 1, 1972, when he  
19 assumed the Presidency of Southwest; and

20 WHEREAS, although Southwest has the smallest multi-county  
21 district and the smallest operating budget in the state, President  
22 Holmes saw opportunities rather than obstacles. He knew that  
23 Southwest students could receive a quality education rivaling that  
24 of any institution, regardless of size. He retained an excellent  
25 faculty and established projects to provide educational  
26 instruction and facilities to fulfill Southwest's mission to serve  
27 the citizens of its district by providing lower-division college,  
28 occupational, and continuing education courses, as well as



29 community services, to meet the diverse needs of the population at  
30 a reasonable cost. During these past 50 years of President  
31 Holmes' tenure, Southwest has gained status within the  
32 junior/community college system, has grown in size (buildings and  
33 land), and has increased in enrollment and in faculty numbers; and

34 WHEREAS, as Southwest grew in stature, it also enjoyed  
35 physical growth, thanks to President Holmes' insight and support.  
36 New construction costs for the college have exceeded  
37 \$20,000,000.00 since 1972 when Southwest began a massive building  
38 program including key instructional and academic, as well as  
39 support facilities, around the lake.

40 WHEREAS, with physical growth, came an increase in numbers.  
41 In 1972, 37 faculty members taught the courses included in the 34  
42 programs offered by the institution. During the 2002 semesters,  
43 101 faculty members provided instruction in the 50 programs  
44 available. Student enrollment in 1972 numbered 912 as compared to  
45 1,772 in 2002. And perhaps most impressive, the budget increased  
46 from \$965,108.00 in 1972 to \$10,439,295.00 in 2002.

47 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this  
48 gentleman who has done so much for a small community college in  
49 southwest Mississippi and its students during the past 50 years  
50 while staying actively involved with his family, church, and  
51 community, and whose professional and civic dedication serve as a  
52 model for all citizens in the State of Mississippi:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
54 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
55 we do hereby commend and congratulate Southwest Mississippi  
56 Community College President, Horace C. Holmes for his 50 years of  
57 outstanding service to this institution and to the  
58 Community/Junior College System of Mississippi, and extend to him  
59 and his family the best wishes of the Senate for continued  
60 success.



61           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
62 President Holmes at Southwest Mississippi's celebration in his  
63 honor in conjunction with annual Homecoming activities, and be  
64 forwarded to the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and  
65 be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

