

By: Senator(s) Gordon, Browning, Little, Hyde-Smith, Nunnelee, Minor, Harden, Jackson, Furniss, Moffatt, Harvey, Thames, Chaney, Scoper, Dickerson, Johnson (38th), Mettetal, Farris, Frazier, Dearing, Canon, Posey, Stogner, Burton, King, Robertson, Lee, Gollott, Carlton, Huggins, Cuevas

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING SOUTHWEST  
 2 MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT HORACE C. HOLMES FOR HIS  
 3 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 one hundred one faculty members provided instruction in the fifty  
44 programs available. Student enrollment in 1972 numbered 912 as  
45 compared to 1,772 in 2002. And perhaps most impressive, the  
46 budget increased from \$965,108.00 in 1972 to \$10,439,295.00 in  
47 2002.

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

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
55 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Southwest  
56 Mississippi Community College President, Horace C. Holmes for his  
57 50 years of 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.

