

By: Representatives Brown, Whittington,
Eads, Ford, Mayo, Montgomery (15th), Reynolds

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 99

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING MARSHALL BENNETT UPON HIS
2 RETIREMENT, FOR HIS STRONG FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP TO MISSISSIPPI AND
3 FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE TO THE STATE.

4 WHEREAS, Marshall Bennett, Mississippi's 51st State
5 Treasurer, has provided many years of strong financial leadership
6 and exceptional service to Mississippi, and will retire at the end
7 of this term; and

8 WHEREAS, first elected as State Treasurer in 1987 and
9 reelected to four consecutive terms, Mr. Bennett has earned more
10 than \$1 billion of interest investing the state's funds through
11 professional methods, and saved over \$40 million in debt payment
12 by refinancing state bonds for lower interest rates; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett has helped Mississippi families by
14 creating the MPACT and MACS College Savings Programs, which will
15 pay over \$100 million in college tuition payments for Mississippi
16 students; and

17 WHEREAS, as Trustee for Mississippi's Public Employees
18 Retirement System, Mr. Bennett has helped accumulate \$17 billion
19 of retirement benefits for 154,000 families, and as Chairman of
20 the Health Care Trust Fund, Mr. Bennett invests the \$700 million
21 tobacco settlement fund, which has improved health care for all
22 citizens; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett created the Mississippi Women's Money
24 Conference to help inform women and families of ways to save,
25 invest, reduce debt and become financially secure, and as a
26 director of the Mississippi Business Finance Corp., the
27 Mississippi Development Bank, Mr. Bennett helped provide funding



28 for low interest business loans for business jobs, and funding for
29 creating and improving clean water and sewer facilities for
30 Mississippi cities and towns; and

31 WHEREAS, not only did Mr. Bennett receive the Nation's Most
32 Outstanding State Treasurers Award, but he also has been elected
33 as President of the National Treasurers Association, President of
34 the National State Auditors, Comptrollers & Treasurers
35 Association, and Chairman of the National College Savings
36 Association; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett has located over \$25 million in lost
38 bank accounts and unclaimed property, and returned over \$10
39 million to Mississippi's owners or their heirs; and

40 WHEREAS, because of Mr. Bennett's tireless devotion to the
41 financial security of this state, Mississippi's credit rating has
42 been upgraded to AA, the first upgrade since 1974, and has set up
43 a statewide collateral pool to protect all public funds invested
44 and deposited in banks under a more efficient centralized system;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett served as Assistant District Attorney,
47 Director of the State Consumer Protection Division and Assistant
48 Attorney General, Legislative Assistant to Governor William
49 Winter, and State Commissioner of Workers Compensation; and

50 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett is the son of a small town merchant from
51 the Delta farming community of Tchula in Holmes County,
52 Mississippi, obtained his bachelor of arts and juris doctor
53 degrees from the University of Mississippi, and practiced law in
54 Jackson; and

55 WHEREAS, Mr. Bennett resides in Jackson, is the father of
56 three children, and has been active as the President of the
57 Mississippi Prevent Blindness Association, Administrative Board of
58 Christ United Methodist Church, and the Advisory Board of the
59 Mississippi Commission on International Cultural Exchange, which
60 has brought Mississippi the acclaimed art exhibits of the Palaces



61 of St. Petersburg, the Splendors of Versailles and the Majesty of
62 Spain, seen by over 1.4 million visitors who visited Mississippi;
63 and

64 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi wishes
65 to recognize and pay special tribute to a remarkable leader in
66 state government by commending Marshall Bennett upon his
67 retirement, and for his strong financial leadership and many years
68 of exceptional service to our state:

69 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
70 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
71 THEREIN, That we commend Marshall Bennett upon his retirement, for
72 his undying commitment to the financial stability of Mississippi
73 and his many years of outstanding service to the state, and we
74 extend to him all of our best wishes for success in all his future
75 endeavors.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
77 furnished to Marshall Bennett and to members of the Capitol Press
78 Corps.

