

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.

