

By: Representatives Capps, Barnett (92nd)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 100

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MR. THOMAS KING "TOM" SWAYZE AND EXPRESSING OUR
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Thomas King "Tom" Swayze, a legend in Ole Miss
5 sports history, departed this life on January 31, 2003, causing a
6 great loss to his family and friends; and

7 WHEREAS, a native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, Mr. Swayze was
8 born on March 15, 1909, and attended high school in Raymondville,
9 Texas, and Edinburg Junior College; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1929, Mr. Swayze enrolled at the University of
11 Mississippi, where he received his bachelor's degree in 1933 and
12 was a member of the M-Club and Blue Key; and

13 WHEREAS, during his collegiate career at Ole Miss, Mr. Swayze
14 earned three letters in football, playing end on Ed Walker's first
15 three teams while earning considerable all-star mention, including
16 being a member of the South Team in the 1932 North-South All-Star
17 Football Game in Miami, Florida; and

18 WHEREAS, in addition, Mr. Swayze earned four letters in
19 baseball as a southpaw pitcher and compiled an outstanding winning
20 record; and

21 WHEREAS, after graduating from Ole Miss, Mr. Swayze played
22 professional baseball for the Memphis Chicks from 1933 to 1935 in
23 the old Southern Association and with Columbus and Cleveland in
24 the Cotton States League before heading for the more lucrative
25 semi-pro fields in Georgia, North Carolina and Canada; and



26 WHEREAS, Mr. Swayze was a successful football coach at
27 Benoit, Mississippi, for five seasons and left in 1940 to enter
28 the insurance business; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Swayze later ran a tire recapping plant in Yazoo
30 City before reentering the world of coaching at Moss Point,
31 Mississippi, where he coached football, basketball and was high
32 school principal; and

33 WHEREAS, in 1947, Mr. Swayze became the South's first
34 football recruiter when he returned to Ole Miss and was a pioneer
35 in the area as other schools followed his lead; and

36 WHEREAS, as an assistant football coach, contact man and then
37 field representative under John Vaught, Mr. Swayze served as chief
38 recruiter through the 1971 season; and

39 WHEREAS, during Mr. Swayze's tenure with Ole Miss, the Rebels
40 won six Southeastern Conference Championships in 1947, 1954, 1955,
41 1960, 1962 and 1963 and a share of three national championships in
42 1959, 1960 and 1962 recognized in the NCAA Record Book; and

43 WHEREAS, Mr. Swayze also served as head baseball coach at Ole
44 Miss from 1951 to 1971, leading the Rebels to a 361-201-2 overall
45 record and a 195-120-1 record in Southeastern Conference play; and

46 WHEREAS, in addition, Mr. Swayze's baseball teams captured
47 four SEC baseball titles in 1959, 1960, 1964 and 1969 and three
48 NCAA District III crowns in 1956, 1964 and 1969, which advanced
49 the Rebels to the College World Series all three times; and

50 WHEREAS, the University of Mississippi's previous baseball
51 diamond on All-America Drive was named in honor of Mr. Swayze on
52 May 8, 1976, and the current baseball stadium on Old Taylor Road
53 also bears his name, "Oxford-University Stadium/Swayze Field,"
54 which was dedicated on April 22, 1989; and

55 WHEREAS, after retiring from coaching at Ole Miss in 1971,
56 Mr. Swayze was named as the Director of the Loyalty Foundation, a
57 position he held until 1975; and



58 WHEREAS, Mr. Swayze returned to the baseball field briefly in
59 the late 1980s to serve as a Volunteer Baseball Coach; and

60 WHEREAS, throughout his long and distinguished career, Mr.
61 Swayze has received numerous honors and awards including being
62 selected to the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1978; being a
63 charter member of the Ole Miss Sports Hall of Fame in 1986, and
64 being named to the American Association of College Baseball
65 Coaches Hall of Fame in 1982; and

66 WHEREAS, Mr. Swayze was preceded in his death by six sisters
67 and two brothers and is survived by his wife, Mary Clifton Swayze
68 of Oxford; three daughters, Kay Swayze Alford of Ridgeland, Martha
69 Rhodes Collins of Jackson, and Beth Rhodes Harris of Charlotte,
70 North Carolina; five grandchildren, Swayze Alford, Phyllis
71 Daniels, John Alford, Molly Harris and Sam Harris; four
72 great-grandchildren, Lilli Alford, Grace Alford, Grant Daniels and
73 Clayton Daniels; and

74 WHEREAS, Mr. Swayze and the late Phyllis Finch of Cleveland,
75 Mississippi, were married in 1936 and their daughter, Kay is a
76 1961 Ole Miss graduate and the wife of former Ole Miss Athletic
77 Director Warner Alford, who played football for the Rebels; and

78 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
79 and commend outstanding Mississippians such as Mr. Swayze, who
80 dedicated his life to guiding and teaching young people and to the
81 University of Mississippi, an institution that will always be
82 thankful for his many contributions:

83 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
84 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
85 THEREIN, That we do commend the life and accomplishments of Mr.
86 Thomas King "Tom" Swayze and express our deepest sympathy to his
87 family and friends upon his passing.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
89 furnished to the family of Mr. Thomas King "Tom" Swayze and to the
90 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

