

By: Representatives Clark, Brown,
Whittington

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 46

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING SPEAKER TIM FORD FOR HIS MANY YEARS
2 OF OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
3 MISSISSIPPI AND WISHING HIM WELL UPON HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, Timothy Alan Ford, Speaker of the Mississippi House
5 of Representatives, is completing twenty-four years of consecutive
6 service as a member of the House from District 18, which includes
7 Lee, Prentiss and Pontotoc Counties; and

8 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford was born on October 22, 1951, and grew
9 up in Baldwyn, Mississippi, later earning an undergraduate and law
10 degree from the University of Mississippi, before beginning his
11 career as a public servant by becoming an assistant district
12 attorney in Northeast Mississippi; and

13 WHEREAS, he began his service as a legislator when he became
14 a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1980,
15 gaining his stature as a statesman by rising from freshman
16 lawmaker to chairman of the subcommittee handling important bond
17 measures, then to his 1984 appointment as Chairman of the House
18 Apportionment and Elections Committee and culminating in his 1988
19 election by his colleagues to the Office of Speaker of the House
20 of Representatives; and

21 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford is presently the longest serving
22 speaker in any state house in the United States, completing his
23 fourth consecutive four-year term as Mississippi's Speaker of the
24 House, and he is widely considered to be one of the most
25 influential state leaders in the country today; and

26 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the House, Speaker Ford has
27 taken a leading role in virtually every meaningful economic



28 development, educational, transportation and agricultural program,
29 and election reform measure that has been addressed by the
30 Mississippi Legislature; and

31 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford's love and deeply felt respect for the
32 Legislature as an institution has led him to fight to preserve and
33 nurture its integrity, becoming a guardian of this democratic
34 institution during a time in Mississippi's history when the
35 diversity of the House membership expanded to include meaningful
36 participation by women, African Americans and Republicans, as well
37 as the majority group of Democrats; and

38 WHEREAS, demonstrating that he is one of the rare leaders who
39 is able to lead effectively while promoting and protecting the
40 strength of the Legislature, Speaker Ford is known to be a fair
41 and evenhanded steward of the legislative process; and

42 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford is a peacemaker who ensures that all
43 members participate fully in the legislative process, as shown by
44 his appointment of members from all of the diverse factions of the
45 House membership to key positions, thereby promoting stakeholder
46 loyalty to the House over individual political affiliations; and

47 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford's leadership abilities have been
48 recognized nationally, having served as Chairman of the Southern
49 Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments,
50 President of the Southern Speakers Conference, Vice Chairman of
51 the Southern Growth Policies Board; having been a 2001 lecturer on
52 public policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at
53 Harvard University; and he is presently concluding his service as
54 Chairman of the Board of Directors of the State Legislative
55 Leaders Foundation; and

56 WHEREAS, in 2001, Speaker Ford was the first speaker to
57 receive the prestigious "William M. Bulger Excellence in State
58 Legislative Leadership Award," presented annually to a leader who
59 makes a significant contribution to the performance, the
60 strengthening and operation of his legislative institution, with



61 the nomination for the national award made by lawmakers and state
62 government observers across the United States; and

63 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford is widely admired for his talent in
64 building consensus in the Legislature, regardless of the issue at
65 hand, and the members of the House rely on that talent in the face
66 of challenging legislative deliberations; and

67 WHEREAS, even while he leads the House with strength, Speaker
68 Ford is known for his congenial nature, ability to listen
69 effectively and infectious sense of humor, qualities which have
70 enabled him to defuse volatile and controversial situations; and

71 WHEREAS, in addition to his career as an attorney and
72 statesman, Speaker Ford has been a faithful member of the
73 Presbyterian Church, as well as a devoted father of two sons, Ken
74 and Sam, who have supported their father in all of his endeavors;
75 and

76 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford has indicated that he will retire at
77 the expiration of his present term and the members of the House of
78 Representatives wish to express their sincere appreciation to Mr.
79 Speaker for his dedicated service to the people of the State of
80 Mississippi and for the personal sacrifices that he has made on
81 their behalf:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
83 REPRESENTATIVES, That we do hereby commend our friend, colleague
84 and leader, Speaker Tim Ford, for all that he has meant to the
85 Mississippi House of Representatives and for his unmatched
86 contributions to the people of the State of Mississippi, and we
87 want him to know that his leadership will be missed.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
89 furnished to Speaker Tim Ford and to the members of the Capitol
90 Press Corps.

