

By: Senator(s) Jackson, Carmichael,
Williamson, Burton, Dearing, Little, Hyde-
Smith, Walden, Gordon, Frazier, Smith, Chaney

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 557

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR.
2 THOMAS L. DAVIS, JR., LONGTIME PRESIDENT OF EAST MISSISSIPPI
3 COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

4 WHEREAS, Calhoun City native Dr. Thomas Leland Davis, Jr., is
5 known among Mississippi community colleges as the President who
6 brought East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) from the brink
7 of closure to its current status as the fastest growing community
8 college in the state; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis, the eldest of eight children, was born in
10 Prentiss County, Mississippi, on January 5, 1934, to Thomas Leland
11 Davis, Sr., and Eula Bullard Davis. He lived with his family in
12 the Pleasant Hill Community and graduated from Calhoun City High
13 School in 1952; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis attended East Mississippi Community
15 College in the early 1950's on a football scholarship and
16 graduated with an associate degree. He later received degrees
17 from Mississippi College, the University of Southern Mississippi
18 and his Doctorate in Educational Administration from Mississippi
19 State University; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis has had many years of leadership in
21 coaching, teaching and administration. From 1955 to 1976, he
22 experienced highly successful coaching careers at Pachuta High
23 School, Meridian High School, Louisiana College and Northwest High
24 School in Missouri. His high school teams only had one losing
25 season in 15 years. He served as Director of Athletics and Head
26 Football Coach at Heidelberg High School, Columbia High School and
27 Holmes Community College. From 1976 to 1990, Dr. Davis served in



28 the capacities of Director of Continuing Education and Community
29 Services, District Director of Institutional Research and Planning
30 and Vice President for the Goodman Campus at Holmes Community
31 College; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1990 Dr. Davis returned to East Mississippi
33 Community College as President and set out to make his goals for
34 his alma mater a reality. Dr. Davis had the threat of closure
35 removed, changed the financial condition of the college, improved
36 the public image of the college and the morale of its faculty and
37 staff, resumed discontinued programs and activities such as sports
38 and the arts, and improved relations with the State Legislature.
39 He has also succeeded in fostering a sense of common purpose among
40 the Scooba and Golden Triangle campuses and the extension centers
41 that has resulted in a stronger, more unified college. Since Dr.
42 Davis became President, the college's enrollment has more than
43 doubled, making East Mississippi Community College the fastest
44 growing community college in the state; and

45 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis is the current President of the
46 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and is a
47 member of many professional organizations involving education. He
48 serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern
49 Association of Community and Technical Colleges, is former
50 President of the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges,
51 and serves on the Board of Directors of the Community Colleges of
52 Appalachia and the prestigious Commission on Colleges of the
53 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He is a member of
54 Scooba Baptist Church, an ordained Deacon, a Sunday School teacher
55 and a frequent lay speaker in churches; and

56 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis was recently honored by the Mississippi
57 National Guard at Camp Shelby because of his tremendous support of
58 the Armed Forces; and

59 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis is an avid hunter, fisherman and student
60 of the War Between the States; he is married to Rita Chatham Davis



61 and they have two sons, Thomas L. Davis III and Jonathan E. Davis;
62 and

63 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the service
64 of this dedicated alumnus and leader of East Mississippi Community
65 College, who has brought honor to his college, his community and
66 to the State of Mississippi:

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
68 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
69 we do hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Thomas L. Davis, Jr.,
70 longtime President of East Mississippi Community College, and
71 extend to him and his family the greetings and thanks of the
72 Legislature for his service.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
74 Dr. Davis and his family, the Board of Trustees of East
75 Mississippi Community College, and be made available to the
76 Capitol Press Corps.
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