

By: Senator(s) Browning, Frazier, Furniss,
Nunnelee, Smith

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 77

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING FORMER
2 REPRESENTATIVE AND LONGTIME PONTOTOC COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF
3 EDUCATION JERRY L. HORTON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, Jerry L. Horton, three-term Pontotoc County
5 Superintendent of Education, who directed the school district to a
6 Level Five accreditation rating, has announced he will not seek
7 another term; and

8 WHEREAS, Superintendent Horton is credited with providing the
9 leadership to propel the county school system into the top 5% best
10 school systems in the State of Mississippi, Pontotoc County
11 Schools being among the first school district in the state to
12 receive a Level Five accreditation rating; and

13 WHEREAS, Pontotoc County Schools have become so proficient
14 that two years ago the third grade class at North Pontotoc scored
15 the highest academic average of any third grade in Mississippi;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, for over 20 years, Horton has been involved in
18 elective public life after starting his teaching career at South
19 Pontotoc in 1986. He has been Superintendent for 12 years, served
20 in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1980-1988, and
21 was on the Board of Aldermen in Ecrú for over two years; and

22 WHEREAS, Superintendent Horton reflects on the monumental
23 changes in education in the last 12 years: accountability is the
24 national trend following the Mississippi model that he helped to
25 draft while in the Legislature. "We are now going to be held
26 accountable for every child. No student can be left behind"; and



27 WHEREAS, Horton's community service has been exemplary,
28 having been a member of the Pontotoc Rotary Club, Cherry Creek
29 Masonic Lodge, Board of Trustees of Itawamba Community College
30 (ICC), board member of the Regional Education Service Agency
31 (RESA) and the Mississippi Association of School Superintendents
32 (MASS); he was voted Pontotoc County "Man of the Year" in 2002; he
33 is married to the former Helen Wilson and they have one son,
34 Jason; the family are dedicated members of the Baptist Church; and
35 Jerry looks forward to fishing as he returns to private life; and

36 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we recognize the career of
37 this model citizen who has led his school system into one of the
38 top academic districts in the state and who has brought honor to
39 his school, his community and to the State of Mississippi:

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
41 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate former
42 Representative and longtime Pontotoc County Superintendent of
43 Education Jerry L. Horton on the occasion of his retirement, and
44 extend to him and his family the best wishes of the Senate in his
45 future endeavors.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
47 Jerry L. Horton, the Pontotoc County Board of Education, and be
48 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

