

By: Representative Taylor

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 29

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF DR. WALTER  
2 DECELL NEWSOM AND EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY  
3 AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter Decell Newsom, a native of Wayne County,  
5 departed this life on August 20, 2003, causing a great loss to his  
6 family, friends and community; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Newsom, son of Louis Rowan and Annie Coral Gray  
8 Newsom, was born on March 31, 1917, in Hiwannee, Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, after graduating from Clara Agricultural High School  
10 in 1933, Dr. Newsom enlisted in the United States Navy on June 18,  
11 1934, where he served on such ships as the U.S.S. Oklahoma,  
12 Wyoming, Ranger, Barney DD 149 and the Kingfisher and was  
13 honorably discharged with a rating of Quartermaster First Class;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy  
16 assumed control of the Coast Guard and on April 15, 1942, Dr.  
17 Newsom enlisted in the Coast Guard and was commissioned Ensign in  
18 November; and

19 WHEREAS, after graduating from Advanced Officer Training  
20 School, Dr. Newsom was promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade,  
21 serving as Executive Officer of the U.S.S. Gloucester-PF 22; and

22 WHEREAS, in addition, Dr. Newsom was Commanding Officer of  
23 several ships during the Pacific Conflict and was promoted to  
24 Lieutenant Senior Grade after that tour of duty; and

25 WHEREAS, on January 25, 1946, Dr. Newsom received an  
26 Honorable Discharge and was awarded The American Defense Ribbon,  
27 The American Theater Ribbon, The World War II Victory Medal, The

28 Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon and The Good Conduct Medal for  
29 courageous and unselfish service in World War II; and

30 WHEREAS, after graduating from Northern Illinois College of  
31 Optometry Accelerated Program in Chicago, Dr. Newsom moved back to  
32 Waynesboro, Mississippi, where he began his 49-year practice of  
33 performing thousands of visual examinations; and

34 WHEREAS, having a father in the grocery business gave Dr.  
35 Newsom a special interest in self-service curb markets, which he  
36 invested in throughout Wayne County during the 1950s and 1960s;  
37 and

38 WHEREAS, in addition, Dr. Newsom was instrumental in bringing  
39 Malbis Bread and Borden's Wayne Maid Dairy Products into Wayne  
40 County; and

41 WHEREAS, Dr. Newsom was an outstanding member of his  
42 community, serving in various groups such as the Waynesboro First  
43 United Methodist Church, Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce,  
44 Waynesboro Country Club, Masons, Disabled Veterans of America,  
45 Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion; and

46 WHEREAS, in 1995, Dr. Newsom was awarded a Certificate of  
47 Continuous Membership for 50 years of service by the American  
48 Legion Post #70 and in 1998, Dr. Newsom was awarded the Rotary  
49 Club's Continuous Membership Award as Waynesboro's first and only  
50 50-year member and was named by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary  
51 International a Paul Harris Fellow; and

52 WHEREAS, Dr. Newsom is survived by his lovely wife of more  
53 than 50 years, the former Hilda Elizabeth Minton; four children,  
54 David L. "Larry" Newsom and his wife, Martha; Anita L. Newsom Nail  
55 and her husband, Steve; Richard Lee Newsom and his wife, Renee';  
56 and Karena L. Newsom Cawthon and her husband, Raad; ten  
57 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and he was preceded in  
58 death by his daughter, Donna L. Newsom Everitt; and

59 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
60 and commend outstanding Mississippians such as Dr. Newsom who

61 devoted his life to faithfully serving his country in the Navy and  
62 subsequently improving the quality of life for so many citizens of  
63 Wayne County:

64         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
65 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
66 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life and accomplishments of  
67 Dr. Walter Decell Newsom and express our deepest sympathy to his  
68 family and friends upon his passing.

69         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
70 furnished to Dr. Walter Decell Newsom's family and to the members  
71 of the Capitol Press Corps.