

By: Representatives Dickson, Coleman (65th), Banks, Broomfield, Burnett, Capps, Carlton, Clark, Clarke, Coleman (29th), Ellis, Espy, Flaggs, Fleming, Fredericks, Gibbs, Green, Harrison, Hines, Holloway, Martinson, Mayo, Myers, Peranich, Perkins, Rogers (14th), Scott, Stevens, Thomas, Upshaw, West, Whittington To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 86

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
2 MILDRED D. TAYLOR AND RECOGNIZING APRIL 2, 2004, AS "MILDRED D.  
3 TAYLOR DAY" IN MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Mildred D. Taylor, one of the United States'  
5 foremost writers for young people and a native Mississippian, will  
6 return home to the great State of Mississippi for a celebration of  
7 her work and the statewide proclamation and acknowledgement of  
8 "Mildred D. Taylor Day" on April 2, 2004; and

9 WHEREAS, beginning with her first book, Song of the Trees, in  
10 1975 and Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry, winner of the 1977 Newberry  
11 Medal, the most prestigious honor in children's literature, Ms.  
12 Taylor has written nine celebrated books about African-American  
13 life in Mississippi; and

14 WHEREAS, for her literary works, Ms. Taylor has received  
15 numerous awards, including being the recipient of the first  
16 Council on Interracial Books for Children Award, the *New York*  
17 *Times* Outstanding Book of the Year Award, three Coretta Scott King  
18 Author Awards, the Christopher Award and the American Library  
19 Association's Best Book for Young Adults Award, among others; and

20 WHEREAS, in October 2003, she was named laureate of the  
21 inaugural \$25,000.00 NSK Neustadt Prize for Children's Literature,  
22 awarded by the University of Oklahoma and its international  
23 quarterly *World Literature Today*; and

24 WHEREAS, born in Jackson, Mississippi, but raised and  
25 educated in Toledo, Ohio, Ms. Taylor graduated from the University  
26 of Toledo in 1965, where after she joined the Peace Corps, she  
27 spent two years in Ethiopia before returning to the United States

28 to enroll in the University of Colorado in pursuit of her master's  
29 degree in journalism; and

30 WHEREAS, the 1997 recipient of the National Council for  
31 Teachers of English's ALAN Award for her outstanding contributions  
32 to the field of adolescent literature, Ms. Taylor's visit will  
33 mark the return to the place where her life and work began, a  
34 Mississippi that no longer celebrates prejudice, but embraces her  
35 works, and honors her life and her family; and

36 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
37 and commend outstanding individuals such as Ms. Taylor, whose  
38 life's experiences as an African-American author with a strong  
39 sense of self and fervent ties to Mississippi has allowed her to  
40 convey a message of hope, faith, strength, love and family to  
41 countless millions around the world:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
43 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
44 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the accomplishments of Mildred  
45 D. Taylor and recognize April 2, 2004, as "Mildred D. Taylor Day"  
46 in Mississippi.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
48 furnished to Mildred D. Taylor and to the members of the Capitol  
49 Press Corps.