

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 102

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SERVICE OF EDWARD HELLER BUELOW,
2 JR., FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS AND SERVICE TO THE STATE OF
3 MISSISSIPPI AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM PUBLIC
4 SERVICE.

5 WHEREAS, Edward Heller (Ed) Buelow, Jr., has faithfully
6 served in various capacities of public service in the State of
7 Mississippi for over 30 years, and it is with appreciation that we
8 recognize his dedication and devotion upon his retirement; and

9 WHEREAS, a native of Vicksburg, Mr. Buelow graduated in 1962
10 from the University of Illinois and served as a Captain in the
11 United States Army from 1963 to 1969 before returning to Vicksburg
12 where he was elected to his first public office as a member of the
13 Warren County School Board serving from 1972 until 1976; and

14 WHEREAS, elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives
15 in 1976, where he remained until 1992, Mr. Buelow served as a
16 member of various committees, including the Appropriations
17 Committee, the Apportionment and Elections Committee, the
18 Education Committee, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, the
19 Joint Legislative Reapportionment Committee, the Joint
20 Congressional Redistricting Committee and as Chairman of the
21 Public Health and Welfare Committee; and

22 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Legislature he received
23 numerous honors, including the TLC award from the Coalition for
24 Mothers and Babies in 1985, the Labor Award from the Mississippi
25 Perinatal Association in 1987, named as one of 10 Legislators of
26 the Year in 1989 by the National Republican Legislators
27 Association and recognized by President George H.W. Bush for

28 having received that honor and presented with the Hugh White Free
29 Enterprise Award in 1991; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1992, Mr. Buelow received an appointment to serve
31 as Chairman of the Mississippi State Tax Commission and was
32 reappointed for a second term in 1998; and

33 WHEREAS, using his knowledge earned as a legislator in the
34 complex field of tax law and regulation and knowledge earned
35 concerning agency appropriation and budgeting methodology, Mr.
36 Buelow, as Chairman and Commissioner of Revenue, directed the
37 majority of revenue-generating activities in the state for the
38 past 12 years; and

39 WHEREAS, from June 1992 to October 1993, he served as
40 Chairman of the State Gaming Commission, where he laid the
41 groundwork for a successful gaming industry in our state, licensed
42 the first dockside casinos opened in Mississippi, developed the
43 Gaming Rules and Regulations, issued the first Charitable Bingo
44 Licenses and developed the Charitable Bingo Rules and Regulations;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, Mr. Buelow, during his career has served on numerous
47 professional associations and committees, including having served
48 as Mississippi's only President of the National Alcohol Beverage
49 Control Association in 1998 and currently serves on its board of
50 directors, served as President of the Southeastern Association of
51 Tax Administrators in 1996 and was on its executive board for many
52 years, served on a number of committees with the American
53 Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and Federation of Tax
54 Administrators, served on the state's Revenue Estimating Committee
55 and served as a member of the License Tag Commission overseeing
56 three new tag series during his administration; and

57 WHEREAS, Mr. Buelow led the Tax Commission through the
58 aftermath of a devastating fire in May 2003 that caused
59 multi-million dollars of damage to its physical plant leaving over
60 two-thirds of the building uninhabitable for a six-month period of

61 time while continuing the critical work of the agency without
62 missing a single deposit of state tax revenue and without
63 detriment to state government; and

64 WHEREAS, he has taken an active role in dealing with the
65 State Personnel Board to ensure that agency job classifications
66 match the level of the tasks performed, as well as providing
67 significant amounts of training for Tax Commission staff at all
68 levels of authority emphasizing quality performance and taxpayer
69 service; and

70 WHEREAS, Mr. Buelow brought about technology and efficiency
71 improvements to the Tax Commission during his tenure, increasing
72 from only two personal computers to a comprehensive network of
73 over 600 personal computers, developed the Tax Commission website,
74 installed image scanning and optical character recognition of tax
75 return data, instituted electronic filing of tax returns and
76 initiated a project to modernize and integrate all tax systems
77 into an integrated tax system; and

78 WHEREAS, Mr. Buelow headed the efforts to update tax forms,
79 leading to Outstanding Achievement Awards for Forms Releases and
80 Honorable Mention Awards for Forms Design as awarded by the
81 National Association of Computerized Tax Processors for the years
82 2000, 2001, and 2002, succeeded in reaching the lowest levels of
83 outstanding tax delinquencies in known history of the agency,
84 redefined the audit program to audit a larger percentage of tax
85 dollars annually, performed statewide reappraisal of property,
86 modernized motor vehicle assessments, implemented electronically
87 filed property tax rolls and homestead rolls, created a new
88 program for homestead reimbursements and performed the valuation
89 and assessment of approximately \$5.5 billion of public service and
90 transportation properties for ad valorem taxation; and

91 WHEREAS, he has been supported in all his endeavors by his
92 wife, Mrs. Carol Cox Buelow, and his children, Laura Buelow Jones,
93 Lisa Buelow Ireland and Edward H. (Bo) Buelow, III, and his

94 grandchildren, Anna Katherine Ireland and Selby Allen Ireland,
95 Jr.; and

96 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
97 honor diligent state employees, such as Mr. Buelow, whose career
98 serves as an example to all citizens of the State of Mississippi
99 and whose legacy of service is exemplified by fairness,
100 perseverance and prudent judgment:

101 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
102 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
103 commend the remarkable career of Edward Heller Buelow, Jr., upon
104 his retirement and express acknowledgment to him for the hard work
105 and many sacrifices he made to serve the people of our state and
106 wish him all success in his future endeavors.

107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
108 furnished to Mr. Buelow, to the State Tax Commission and to the
109 members of the Capitol Press Corps.