

By: Representatives Chism, Beckett, Dickson,
Ellis, Gibbs, Harrison, Horne, McCoy, Reed,
Robinson (84th), Smith (39th), Snowden, Young

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 123

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. THOMAS L. DAVIS, JR., FOR HIS
2 CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF MANY YEARS TO EAST
3 MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON HIS
4 RETIREMENT.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Thomas L. Davis, Jr., will retire as President
6 of East Mississippi Community College after more than 49 years of
7 committed and diligent service to educating many Mississippi
8 citizens; and

9 WHEREAS, born on January 5, 1934, in Prentiss County,
10 Mississippi, Dr. Davis graduated from Calhoun City High School,
11 broadened his basic educational learning and training by earning
12 his associate degree from East Mississippi Junior College, his
13 bachelor of science degree from Mississippi College, his master of
14 science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and his
15 doctor of education degree from Mississippi State University; and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis began his career in education at the
17 Pachuta High School in 1955, and has since shared his vast wealth
18 of educational knowledge with students in Mississippi, Louisiana
19 and Missouri on both the secondary and collegiate levels in
20 instructional and administrative capacities; and

21 WHEREAS, after a three-year period as Vice President and
22 District Director of Institutional Research and Planning at Holmes
23 Community College's Goodman Campus, Dr. Davis was selected in 1990
24 to lead the campus of East Mississippi Community College as the
25 institution's president; and

26 WHEREAS, in his new position of leadership, Dr. Davis served
27 as an ambassador for the school, saving it from the brink of
28 possible closure, in addition to overseeing an enrollment increase

29 of more than 261 percent, providing financial solidarity,
30 improving the college's public image and legislative relations for
31 increased funding, and organizing and implementing extensive
32 building and renovation programs for both campuses; and

33 WHEREAS, during his illustrious career in education, Dr.
34 Davis has served as a member of many task force committees, boards
35 of directors and other professional organizations, including: the
36 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on
37 Colleges, the Southern Association of Community, Junior and
38 Technical Colleges, the Community Colleges of Appalachia, the
39 American Association of Community Colleges Presidents Academy, the
40 Kemper County Small Business Incubator, Phi Delta Kappa, the
41 Mississippi Public Junior College Task Force, the North
42 Mississippi Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council and the
43 Mississippi Association of Coaches; and

44 WHEREAS, a devoted husband, Dr. Davis is married to the
45 former Rita Chatham, and together they have two children, Thomas
46 III and Jonathan, who have supported him in all of his
47 undertakings; and

48 WHEREAS, a faithfully devoted member of the Scooba Baptist
49 Church, where he is an ordained deacon, Sunday school teacher, and
50 frequent lay speaker, Dr. Davis, by surrounding himself with
51 effective and capable people, attributes his success of East
52 Mississippi Community College to God; and

53 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis, who exhibits a positive attitude and
54 trusts, respects and believes in his employees, is to be commended
55 for his many valued services and contributions provided to
56 Mississippi's educational system provided throughout his 49-year
57 career:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
60 commend and congratulate Dr. Thomas L. Davis, Jr., upon his
61 retirement after 49 years of dedicated and exemplary service to

62 the citizens of Mississippi, and we extend to him our heartiest
63 wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
65 furnished to Dr. Thomas L. Davis, Jr., and to the members of the
66 Capitol Press Corps.