

By: Senator(s) Chaney, Brown, Browning, Clarke, Dearing, Frazier, Gollott, Gordon, Harvey, Huggins, Jackson (15th), Jackson (11th), Jordan, King, Kirby, Little, Michel, Moffatt, Posey, Ross, Thames, White

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 47

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE OF  
2 COMMISSIONER OF REVENUE AND FORMER MISSISSIPPI REPRESENTATIVE  
3 EDWARD HELLER BUELOW, JR., UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT  
4 FROM PUBLIC OFFICE.

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 of the State Tax Commission and Commissioner  
37 of Revenue, directed the majority of revenue-generating activities  
38 in the state for the past 12 years; and

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

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

61 period of time while continuing the critical work of the agency  
62 without 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 with pride that we honor former Representative  
97 Buelow, whose career serves as an example to all citizens of the  
98 State of Mississippi and whose legacy of service is exemplified by  
99 fairness, perseverance and prudent judgment:

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

106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
107 presented to Ed Buelow and made available to the State Tax  
108 Commission and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.