

By: Senator(s) Brown

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69

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

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

8 WHEREAS, born on January 5, 1934, in Prentiss County,
9 Mississippi, Dr. Davis graduated from Calhoun City High School,
10 broadened his basic educational learning and training by earning
11 his associate degree from East Mississippi Junior College, his
12 Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi College, his Master of
13 Science degree from the University of Southern Mississippi and his
14 Doctor of Education degree from Mississippi State University; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
58 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Thomas
59 L. Davis, Jr., upon his retirement after 49 years of dedicated and

60 exemplary service to the citizens of Mississippi, and we extend to
61 him our heartiest wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
63 presented to Dr. Thomas L. Davis, Jr., and his family and made
64 available to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.