

By: Representatives Holland,  
Aldridge, Franks, Markham, Miles,  
Montgomery, Sullivan, Turner

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING MR. ROBERT BUTLER AND  
2 MRS. NITA BUTLER FOR THEIR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE  
3 HANDICAPPED CITIZENS OF TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Robert Butler and Mrs. Nita Butler have spent  
5 the course of fifty years serving God through fellowship and  
6 service to their fellowman by working with disabled individuals;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, on December 14, 1954, a new day dawned for the  
9 handicapped citizens of Northeast Mississippi when Mrs. Butler  
10 expressed a deep concern for the many disabled citizens of the  
11 region, including her brother, Milford; and

12 WHEREAS, her efforts, coupled with those of her husband and  
13 countless others, were instrumental in the establishment and  
14 dedication of the first regional rehabilitation center in  
15 Mississippi, a facility which opened its doors in 1956 as the very  
16 first Cerebral Palsy center in Tupelo; and

17 WHEREAS, the climax of the Butlers' efforts became paramount  
18 with the official dedication of an all new \$325,000.00 Regional  
19 Rehabilitation Center on December 1, 1963, after having been  
20 previously located in the basement of the Harrisburg Baptist  
21 Church and the Nurses Home of the local Tupelo hospital; and

22 WHEREAS, both fervently committed to assuring the best  
23 rehabilitative services, assistance, therapy and medical treatment  
24 to the many disabled citizens of Tupelo and Mississippi, Mr. and  
25 Mrs. Butler have become synonymous with the handicapped and  
26 disabled throughout the state; and

27           WHEREAS, Mr. Butler, for his diligent efforts and commitment  
28 to enhancing the services offered to disabled individuals, was  
29 appointed to serve two terms on the Mississippi Rehabilitation  
30 Advisory Council, in addition to serving the Mississippi  
31 Association Vocational Education Special Needs Program, the  
32 President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities  
33 and the Board for the Regional Rehabilitation Center, Inc.; and

34           WHEREAS, from the date of its opening in 1956 to the end of  
35 the 2003 fiscal year, over 1,130,000 rehabilitation services have  
36 been provided by the Regional Rehabilitation Center to  
37 approximately 111,500 clients free of charge, all in part of the  
38 efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Butler; and

39           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
40 recognize the contributory and humanitarian efforts of such  
41 esteemed citizens as Mr. and Mrs. Butler's caliber, whose  
42 volunteerism, services and commitment to Mississippi's disabled  
43 has served as a benchmark for excellence in exhibition of the  
44 commitment mankind has to God through serving their fellowman:

45           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
46 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
47 recognize and commend Mr. Robert Butler and Mrs. Nita Butler for  
48 their many years of dedicated services to the handicapped citizens  
49 of Tupelo, Mississippi, extend our grateful appreciation for their  
50 commitment and express our warmest wishes for continued success in  
51 all their future endeavors.

52           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
53 furnished to Mr. and Mrs. Butler and to the members of the Capitol  
54 Press Corps.