

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DEDICATED, DILIGENT AND  
2 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE OF DR. HORACE C. HOLMES, SR., TO SOUTHWEST  
3 MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON THE  
4 OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

5 WHEREAS, Horace C. Holmes, who has served as President of  
6 Southwest Mississippi Community College (Southwest) since 1972,  
7 recently announced his retirement to be effective on June 30,  
8 2005; and

9 WHEREAS, born July 19, 1924, in Belden, Lee County,  
10 Mississippi, President Holmes received his high school diploma  
11 from Sherman High School in Pontotoc County, undergoing further  
12 matriculation at Jones Junior College, earning his associate of  
13 arts degree, and at the University of Southern Mississippi,  
14 earning both his bachelor of science and master of arts degrees;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, President Holmes completed additional studies at  
17 Mississippi State University, and for his momentous contributions  
18 to the educational arena, was presented an honorary doctorate by  
19 Mississippi College; and

20 WHEREAS, with over 51 years of service to Southwest, which  
21 celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, the 80-year-old Holmes'  
22 retirement letter was accepted by the board of trustees on  
23 Tuesday, March 8, 2005; and

24 WHEREAS, President Holmes came to Southwest in 1953 to assume  
25 the position of psychology instructor and boys' basketball coach  
26 after a five-year tenure as coach at Johnston Station and Loyd  
27 Star High Schools, and what was to be a one-year stay evolved into  
28 a half century; and

29           WHEREAS, he became Dean of Men in 1955 while continuing his  
30 teaching responsibilities, and in 1957, he became assistant to the  
31 president; by 1962, Horace C. Holmes was Dean of Instruction, a  
32 role he continued until July 1, 1972, when he assumed the  
33 presidency of Southwest; and

34           WHEREAS, having served a long, distinguished and successful  
35 career, President Holmes is known by his colleagues and students  
36 to be intelligent, hardworking, loyal, friendly and concerned  
37 about the quality of education for all students of Southwest  
38 Mississippi Community College; and

39           WHEREAS, having his name become synonymous with that of  
40 Southwest, President Holmes' tenure has seen substantial growth in  
41 status within the junior/community college system, as well as a  
42 growth in size, enrollment and faculty; and

43           WHEREAS, the support and insight that President Holmes  
44 emanated over the course of his educational and administrative  
45 career at Southwest is indicative of his commitment to ensuring  
46 that Southwest fulfilled its mission to serve the citizens of its  
47 district by providing lower-division college, occupational, and  
48 continuing education courses, as well as community services, to  
49 meet the diverse needs of the population at a reasonable cost; and

50           WHEREAS, President Holmes has enjoyed the constant  
51 companionship, support, encouragement and love of his family,  
52 including his wife, Rebecca Lefay McClelland Holmes, and sons,  
53 Horace C. (Butch) Holmes, Jr., and Larry McClelland Holmes, who  
54 have witnessed his success in catapulting Southwest into the ranks  
55 of notability among community and junior colleges throughout the  
56 state, region and nation; and

57           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this  
58 gentleman who has done so much for a small community college in  
59 southwest Mississippi and for its students during the past 51 plus  
60 years, while staying actively involved with his family, church and

61 community, and whose professional and civic dedication serve as a  
62 model for all citizens in the State of Mississippi:

63         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
64 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
65 commend and congratulate Dr. Horace C. Holmes, Sr., President of  
66 Southwest Mississippi Community College for more than 51 years of  
67 outstanding service to this institution and to the  
68 community/junior college system of Mississippi, and extend to him  
69 and his family the best wishes in the lighter days of his  
70 retirement.

71         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
72 furnished to Dr. Horace C. Holmes, President of Southwest  
73 Mississippi Community College and to the members of the Capitol  
74 Press Corps.