

By: Representative Stringer

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 59

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF LONNIE  
2 THIGPEN, SR., AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON HIS RETIREMENT.

3 WHEREAS, Lonnie Thigpen, Sr., will retire as District  
4 Conservationist for Bay Springs Field Office of the Natural  
5 Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the United States  
6 Department of Agriculture after approximately 35 years of  
7 committed and diligent service; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Thigpen began working with NRCS in May 1970 as a  
9 student trainee in the Canton Field Office as a summer job before  
10 returning to college, and worked in the Philadelphia Field Office  
11 in the summer of 1971, before returning to complete college; and

12 WHEREAS, in January 1972, Mr. Thigpen commenced full-time  
13 employment with NRCS in the Oxford Field Office as Soil  
14 Conservationist upon receiving his bachelor of science degree from  
15 Alcorn State University in agriculture education; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Thigpen remained in Oxford until promoted to  
17 serve as District Conservationist in Leakesville in 1977, where he  
18 remained until 1980, was then transferred to Waynesboro and  
19 subsequently to Bay Springs in 1987, where he remains today; and

20 WHEREAS, during his illustrious career with NRCS, he has  
21 served as acting District Conservationist in Lucedale, Wiggins,  
22 Hattiesburg, Laurel, Raleigh, Forest, Decatur, Quitman and  
23 Meridian, and as acting Area Conservationist in Hattiesburg; and

24 WHEREAS, involved in every facet of the agency's operation,  
25 he has served two terms as Chairman of the NRCS's State EEO/Civil  
26 Rights Committee, served on the State Committee for Water Quality  
27 Strategic Planning, special task force member for resolving civil

28 disputes with NRCS, and currently serves on the State Forest  
29 Stewardship Committee, local Wildlife Seminar, Tree Planting Week,  
30 Soil Stewardship Week, No-Till Demonstration and Forestry  
31 Seminar/Field Day Committees; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Thigpen spends his leisure time operating a  
33 cattle and timber farm, in addition to serving on multiple boards  
34 of directors, including the Jasper County Cattlemen's Association,  
35 Jasper County Forestry Association, Southern Pine Electric Power  
36 Association, Jasper County Strategic Planning, Multi-County  
37 Community Services, Jasper County Farm Bureau and performing  
38 Christian missionary work; and

39 WHEREAS, a devoted husband, Mr. Thigpen has been supported in  
40 all his undertakings and endeavors by his wife, Doris Houston  
41 Thigpen; and

42 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
43 recognize and commend such outstanding individuals as Lonnie  
44 Thigpen, whose services to the State of Mississippi were  
45 monumental:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
47 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
48 commend and congratulate Lonnie Thigpen, Sr., upon his retirement  
49 after approximately 35 years of dedicated and exemplary service to  
50 the State of Mississippi, and we extend to him our heartiest  
51 wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
53 furnished to Lonnie Thigpen, Sr., and to the members of the  
54 Capitol Press Corps.