

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 105

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE TOWN OF FLORENCE ON ITS  
2 CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY, CELEBRATING 100 YEARS AS AN INCORPORATED  
3 MUNICIPALITY IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI SINCE MAY 30, 1905.

4 WHEREAS, incorporated as a township on May 30, 1905, the Town  
5 of Florence, Mississippi, will celebrate its 100th Anniversary in  
6 June 2005; and

7 WHEREAS, in the early 1820s the Steen family of South  
8 Carolina began a journey to settle in the new State of  
9 Mississippi, arriving and settling in Rankin County near the  
10 present site of Florence, and since they were the first settlers  
11 the community became known as Steen's Creek; and

12 WHEREAS, by 1900 Steen's Creek had become a thriving cotton  
13 center with several stores, a blacksmith shop, a grist mill, a  
14 steam cotton gin and a hotel; and

15 WHEREAS, in that same year the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad  
16 built a line from Jackson to Gulfport and decided to run the  
17 tracks through Steen's Creek; it was at this point that W. Ellis,  
18 Sr., son of Sam Ellis, took advantage of the opportunity to change  
19 the name of the town; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Ellis propositioned the railroad, offering to  
21 donate the land on which the depot would be built, contingent upon  
22 the railroad's naming the depot after his wife, Florence; and

23 WHEREAS, the first train came through Florence on July 4,  
24 1900, and subsequently brought more people and more industry to  
25 Florence, and on May 30, 1905, the town became incorporated as a  
26 municipality and had a population of approximately 600 people; and

27           WHEREAS, in 1979, the town built and opened the first Town  
28 Hall, and as the City of Florence moved toward the year 2000, it  
29 had grown to consist of many new businesses and other public  
30 facilities, including a post office, library, health center, three  
31 public schools and also an institution of higher education at  
32 Wesley College; and

33           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
34 recognize and commend the heritage and history of the state's  
35 villages, towns, cities and counties, such as Florence,  
36 Mississippi, whose abundance of riches have contributed to the  
37 unique and valuable qualities that make the State of Mississippi  
38 unquestionably the greatest state in the nation:

39           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
40 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
41 commend the Town of Florence, Mississippi, on the occasion of its  
42 Centennial Anniversary Celebration and extend our heartiest wishes  
43 for its continued success.

44           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
45 furnished to the Mayor of Florence and to the members of the  
46 Capitol Press Corps.