

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND
2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHIEF PHILLIP MARTIN OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF
3 CHOCTAW INDIANS TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, born March 13, 1926, and currently serving his
5 seventh consecutive four-year term as Chief of the Mississippi
6 Band of Choctaw Indians, Chief Phillip Martin is the
7 democratically elected Tribal Chief of the federally-recognized
8 American Indian tribe of 9,400 members residing on approximately
9 35,000 acres of reservation in east central Mississippi; and

10 WHEREAS, nationally Chief Martin has served as president of
11 the National Tribal Chairmen's Association, founded and served as
12 president of United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET), an
13 association of the 23 federally-recognized tribes in the eastern
14 portion of the United States, in addition to serving as the first
15 president of the Board of Regents of Haskell Indian Junior College
16 (now Haskell Indian Nations University) and founding the United
17 South and Eastern Tribes Gaming Association; and

18 WHEREAS, locally serving the Mississippi Band of Choctaw
19 Indians on numerous boards of directorship, Chief Martin, during
20 his tenure as Tribal Chief, has established countless
21 Tribally-owned and operated businesses on the Choctaw Indian
22 Reservation, Sonora, Mexico, and other major cities across North
23 America, creating a widely diversified local economy and ranking
24 the Tribe as Mississippi's second largest employer; and

25 WHEREAS, a strong and well-known advocate for education,
26 Chief Martin serves on the Advisory Committee for the Division of
27 Technology, Mississippi State University, Meridian Branch and

28 established the Choctaw Tribal Scholarship Program to ensure that
29 all Mississippi Choctaw Students can attend the colleges and
30 universities of their choice; and

31 WHEREAS, having made the necessary concessions to comply with
32 the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 after the Mississippi
33 State Legislature legalized dockside gaming in the state in 1989
34 and 1990, Chief Martin and Governor Kirk Fordice signed the
35 Tribal-State Compact on December 4, 1992, paving the way for the
36 Tribe to launch its first gaming operation, the Silver Star Hotel
37 and Casino on July 1, 1994, followed by the 2002 opening of the
38 Golden Moon Hotel and Casino as well as the championship 36-hole,
39 Dancing Rabbit Golf Course; and

40 WHEREAS, during recent years, Chief Martin has been the
41 recipient of several awards including, but not limited to, the
42 following prestigious honors: United Indian Development
43 Association's Jay Silverheels Award, United States Department of
44 Housing and Urban Development Economic Achievement Award, Honorary
45 Doctor of Laws Degree from Millsaps College, Honorary Member of
46 Rotary International and recipient of its 2003 Paul Harris Fellow
47 Award, Meridian Community College's Highest Flying Eagle Hall of
48 Fame inductee, Mississippi Association of Educators Outstanding
49 Achievement Award, the Mississippi Distinguished Civilian Service
50 Medal presented by Governor Haley Barbour and Adjutant General
51 Harold A. Cross, the National Education Association's Leo Reano
52 Memorial Award and the NASA Public Service Medal; and

53 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives of
54 the State of Mississippi to recognize and commend excellence in
55 such an outstanding individual as Chief Martin, whose business
56 savvy and leadership skills have propelled the Tribe to the
57 forefront of economic development in the Southeast:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
60 commend the leadership and contributions of Chief Phillip Martin

61 of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians to his tribe and to the
62 State of Mississippi and express our appreciation and warmest
63 wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
65 furnished to Chief Martin and to the members of the Capitol Press
66 Corps.