

By: Representative Middleton

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 28

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SERVICE AND CAREER OF MR. WILLIE
2 B. PATTON AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS
3 RETIREMENT FROM ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY.

4 WHEREAS, for the past 30 years, Mr. Willie B. Patton has
5 worked diligently as an agronomy specialist with the Alcorn State
6 University Extension Program (ASU-EP); and

7 WHEREAS, a 1963 graduate of Saltillo High School, Mr. Patton
8 furthered his education at Itawamba Community College, receiving
9 an associates degree in 1965; Blue Mountain College from 1966 to
10 1968; Mississippi State University, where he received his
11 bachelor's and master's degrees in 1970 and 1972 respectively; and

12 WHEREAS, over the course of his working career, which spans
13 more than 38 years, Mr. Patton has worked with the Tippah County
14 Hospital, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Mississippi State
15 University Agricultural and Biological Engineering Department, the
16 Mississippi State University Agronomy Department, Northwest
17 Mississippi Experiment Station and the Golden Gate Baptist
18 Theological Seminary; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Patton's insightful and perceptive intuitiveness
20 has allowed him to make substantial gains for the agronomy program
21 at the ASU-EP, including: having planned, developed and
22 coordinated agronomy programs for small farms in 14 counties in
23 southwest Mississippi; developed and conducted programs on catfish
24 production; development and operation of a wholesale farmer's
25 market at Farmer's Central Market; and oversaw the reopening and
26 operation of the Small Farm Incubator Program in three counties;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, a vital asset to the ASU-EP, Mr. Patton is
29 responsible for the program's receiving several grants to fund
30 various projects, including: a \$99,000.00 SARE Grant to revive
31 the syrup industry; having written the first grant and initiated
32 the Risk Management Program of the ASU-EP from 1995 to 1998;
33 organizing and advising the Mississippi Syrup Producers and
34 Processors Association; and worked to establish the first
35 Sustainable Agriculture Stakeholder Advisory Committee and
36 Conference between the ASU-EP and the MSU-ES; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Patton was instrumental in the development and
38 production of green peanuts and sweet corn in the State of
39 Mississippi. Additionally, he marketed the green peanuts and
40 sweet corn with high production while working with small farmers;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, Mr. Patton worked with farmers in Southwest
43 Mississippi to establish and charter the Southwest Farmers
44 Association, a very active organization for farmers in Southwest
45 Mississippi; and

46 WHEREAS, a member of the 4-H Club, FFA, several livestock,
47 dairy products and poultry judging teams, Mr. Patton is also
48 active in his church, Pleasant Green Baptist Church, in addition
49 to several other professional organizations, including:
50 Mississippi Beekeepers Association, National Sweet Sorghum
51 Producers and Processors Association, Mississippi Syrup Producers
52 and Processors Association, Claiborne County Cattlemen's
53 Association, Mississippi Cattlemen's Association and the
54 Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation; and

55 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
56 recognize the diligence of such a hardworking and multitalented
57 individual as Mr. Patton, whose work and service has been a great
58 asset to the ASU-EP:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby

61 commend the service and career of Mr. Willie B. Patton,
62 congratulate him upon the occasion of his retirement and extend
63 our warmest wishes for continued success in all his future
64 endeavors.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
66 furnished to Mr. Patton and to the members of the Capitol Press
67 Corps.