

By: Representative Formby

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING LIEUTENANT COMMANDER BYRON E.  
2 THOMPSON, JR., FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED AND MERITORIOUS  
3 SERVICE UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Commander Byron E. Thompson, Jr., who  
5 hails from Los Alamos, New Mexico, and is a 1986 graduate of the  
6 United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, has  
7 announced plans of retirement after 20 years of dedicated and  
8 meritorious service; and

9 WHEREAS, in addition to being equipped with his bachelor of  
10 science degree from the Coast Guard Academy, Lieutenant Commander  
11 Thompson also holds a master's degree in business administration  
12 and finance from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and an  
13 accounting certificate from the University of South Alabama; and

14 WHEREAS, assigned to duties as a deck watch officer, first  
15 lieutenant and boarding officer aboard the Achushnet, homeported  
16 in Gulfport, Mississippi, upon his commission, Lieutenant  
17 Commander Thompson eagerly engaged in the task at hand of securing  
18 the national and international waters from illegal activity and  
19 facilitating search and rescue missions; and

20 WHEREAS, after completing his duties aboard the Achushnet,  
21 Lieutenant Commander Thompson was loaned to the United States Navy  
22 and assigned as Anti-Marine Warfare Officer onboard the USS  
23 Goldsborough (DDG-20), homeported in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; and

24 WHEREAS, following Goldsborough, Thompson was assigned as  
25 instructor of professional studies at the United States Coast  
26 Guard Academy, where he also served as the academy's hockey coach;  
27 and

28           WHEREAS, returning to sea as Executive Officer of the Cutter  
29 Papaw, Lieutenant Commander Thompson assumed a lead role in  
30 several major operations, including the rescue of over 530 Cuban  
31 migrants, lead ship of Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti and  
32 oil spill response for the Buffalo Six pipeline explosion in the  
33 Houston Ship Channel; and

34           WHEREAS, subsequent to his work on the open waters,  
35 Lieutenant Commander Thompson has served as the Operations  
36 Officer, Aids to Navigation Branch and later Assistant Chief of  
37 the Search and Rescue Branch at the Eighth Coast Guard District in  
38 New Orleans; Comptroller of the Coast Guard Aviation Training  
39 Command in Mobile, where he managed an annual budget in excess of  
40 \$8.1 million and property valued at more than \$101 million; and

41           WHEREAS, designated Coast Guard Logistics Chief for Hurricane  
42 Ivan response, this assignment provided him invaluable experience,  
43 which proved beneficial while serving as Coast Guard Liaison  
44 Officer to Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina when tasked with  
45 coordinating state and federal rescue efforts; and

46           WHEREAS, in his capacity as liaison officer, Lieutenant  
47 Commander Thompson coordinated 289 search and rescue cases, over  
48 1,500 calls for medical assistance, recorded in excess of 5,000  
49 missing persons reports and utilizing ground search teams  
50 contacted over 10,000 south Mississippi residents; and

51           WHEREAS, this highly decorated officer, who has to his credit  
52 three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, a Coast Guard Achievement  
53 Medal and designations as a Coast Guard Cutterman and United  
54 States Naval Surface Warfare Officer, has been supported  
55 throughout his career by his family: wife, Nancy Crosby Thompson;  
56 and children, Courtney, Chase and Morgan; and

57           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
58 recognize and commend the remarkable career of outstanding  
59 Mississippians such as Lieutenant Commander Thompson, whose

60 service has exemplified the utmost characteristics of dedicated  
61 excellence:

62       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
63 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
64 commend Lieutenant Commander Byron E. Thompson, Jr., upon his many  
65 years of dedicated and meritorious service, congratulate him upon  
66 the occasion of his retirement and express our sincerest wishes  
67 for continued success in all of his future endeavors.

68       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
69 furnished to Lieutenant Commander Byron E. Thompson, Jr., and to  
70 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.