

By: Representatives Masterson, Stevens

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 109

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CHARLES L.  
2 MATHEWS TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (MSMA) AND  
3 EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS  
4 PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Charles L. Mathews was employed by the  
6 Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) for a total of 35  
7 years, where he served 26 years as the association's executive  
8 director before his retirement in 1998, departed this earthly life  
9 on March 2, 2006, causing great sorrow and loss to his family and  
10 friends; and

11 WHEREAS, a native Mississippian who was reared in Maryland,  
12 graduated from Louisiana State University, and undertook  
13 additional graduate studies in law and management at LSU, Syracuse  
14 University and Jackson School of Law, and honorably served his  
15 country from 1952-1955 with the United States Army; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Mathews joined the MSMA staff in 1960 and served  
17 as the association's first full-time lobbyist until 1969, when he  
18 left the association to join the staff of Governor John Bell  
19 Williams; and

20 WHEREAS, while serving on Governor Williams' staff, Mr.  
21 Mathews was instrumental in both drafting and securing legislative  
22 passage in 1969 of the law establishing Mississippi's Medicaid  
23 program, and was subsequently named deputy director of the state  
24 agency responsible for designing, organizing and implementing the  
25 Title XIX program throughout Mississippi; and

26 WHEREAS, Governor Williams sought the assistance of Mr.  
27 Mathews and appointed him Commissioner of Mississippi's State

28 Department of Welfare in 1971, where he led the agency for the  
29 remainder of Governor Williams' term; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Mathews returned to the MSMA in 1972 as its  
31 executive director serving in that capacity until his retirement  
32 in 1998, where he established a vision that led to numerous  
33 innovative programs that serves Mississippi physicians and their  
34 patients, including the Mississippi Foundation for Medical Care;  
35 and

36 WHEREAS, Mr. Mathews oversaw the 1985 conversion of MSMA to  
37 "unified" membership status with the American Medical Association  
38 and, at a time when other state medical societies were unable to  
39 accomplish this feat, increasing MSMA membership approximately 53  
40 percent; and

41 WHEREAS, the MSMA initiative to raise \$1.5 million to  
42 capitalize the Physicians Care Insurance Company, a fully licensed  
43 health care insurance company currently offering stock to members  
44 of the association, was spearheaded by Mr. Mathews to better  
45 utilize resources and establish a physician presence in the  
46 financing of healthcare; and

47 WHEREAS, Mr. Mathews' participation in the development of  
48 organized medicine by the counsel he has provided the MSMA  
49 delegation to the American Medical Association House of Delegates,  
50 his work with the American Association of Medical Society  
51 Executives, his effective guidance and oversight of advocacy work  
52 in Mississippi's legislative and regulatory arenas; and

53 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
54 commend the excellence and the diligence in the life of such a  
55 dedicated individual as Mr. Mathews:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
57 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
58 commend the life and service of Mr. Charles L. Mathews for his  
59 service to the Mississippi State Medical Association and express  
60 deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

61           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
62 furnished to the family of Mr. Mathews and to the members of the  
63 Capitol Press Corps.