

By: Representative McCoy

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 89

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 A.H.E.A.D. ORGANIZATION UPON COMPLETION OF THE 1987 FOUR-LANE  
3 HIGHWAY PROGRAM.

4 WHEREAS, in 1987, the Mississippi Legislature passed over the  
5 Governor's veto, by only one vote in the House of Representatives  
6 and five votes in the Senate, the most comprehensive, long-range  
7 highway program in the history of the state and, perhaps, the  
8 nation; and

9 WHEREAS, with an estimated cost of \$1.6 Billion, the program  
10 proposed to build 1,077 miles of four-lane highways throughout the  
11 state over a fourteen-year period and was designed, when  
12 completed, to provide every citizen of the state with access to a  
13 four-lane highway within 30 miles of his or her residence; and

14 WHEREAS, the legislation creating the program provided for  
15 construction of the highways according to a time-line divided into  
16 three phases based primarily upon vehicle count and road capacity;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, the program was funded primarily on a pay-as-you-go  
19 basis with the major sources for funding derived from an increase  
20 in the motor fuel tax, a Five Dollar car tag fee, a highway  
21 contractor's tax, federal aid and proceeds from state revenue  
22 bonds, and this dedicated revenue stream has remained strong and  
23 viable; and

24 WHEREAS, with the exception of a single segment providing a  
25 municipal bypass on U.S. Highway 61 around the City of Port Gibson  
26 which has been delayed as a result of extensive environmental

27 issues, all segments of the 1987 four-lane highway program are now  
28 complete or have been let for contract; and

29 WHEREAS, although credit for passage and enactment of the  
30 legislation enabling the creation of this historic and monumental  
31 highway program can and should be attributed to the hard work and  
32 perseverance of a great many individuals, not the least of which  
33 include the dedicated and honorable members of the Mississippi  
34 Legislature and its distinguished leaders, without the vision,  
35 inspiration and organizational skills of an unique alliance of  
36 successful businessmen and entrepreneurs who, for the purpose of  
37 promoting and supporting the program, created and formed an  
38 organization that came to be known as Advocating Highways for  
39 Economic Advancement and Development (A.H.E.A.D.), it is unlikely  
40 that a single spade of dirt would have been turned or that the  
41 program would have ever come to fruition; and

42 WHEREAS, the A.H.E.A.D. group continued to lend its support  
43 for the program when a fourth phase of highway segments was added  
44 to the original program in 1994, and again endorsed and supported  
45 the enactment of legislation when, in 2002, the Legislature  
46 incorporated phase IV as part of Vision 21, a needs-based highway  
47 program to be planned, developed and administered by the  
48 Mississippi Transportation Commission and Transportation  
49 Department staff:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
51 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
52 THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize, pay special tribute to and  
53 offer sincere thanks and appreciation to the A.H.E.A.D.  
54 organization and each of its members, past and present, for  
55 contributing their remarkable talents, vision and inspiration  
56 toward the establishment of the 1987 four-lane highway program and  
57 now join with them in celebration of the program's successful  
58 completion.

59           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
60 furnished to each member of the A.H.E.A.D organization and to the  
61 members of the Capitol Press Corps.