

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.