

By: Representatives Eaton, Warren, Stringer

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 92

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING SECRETARY OF STATE ERIC
2 CLARK FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
3 MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Secretary of State Eric Clark, who has spent decades
5 in dedicated public service, has announced that he will not seek a
6 fourth term in office; and

7 WHEREAS, Eric Clark is now serving his third term as
8 Mississippi's Secretary of State. He was elected to the statewide
9 office in 1995 and reelected in 1999 and 2003; and

10 WHEREAS, a native of Smith County, born in 1951, Eric Clark
11 has focused the Secretary of State's Office on four primary goals:
12 protecting the integrity of the state's elections; promoting sound
13 land management; strengthening Mississippi's business climate; and
14 safeguarding the investments and charitable donations of
15 Mississippians; and

16 WHEREAS, as the state's Chief Elections Officer, Clark has
17 reformed the state's campaign finance disclosure laws, secured
18 passage of new measures to combat voter fraud and has expanded
19 voter education programs with "Promote the Vote," which was
20 recognized by CNN and *TIME Magazine* as the most successful student
21 voter project in the country, and "Vote in Honor of a Veteran" to
22 recognize the service and sacrifice of those who make our
23 democracy possible; and

24 WHEREAS, Clark oversees more than 1.3 million acres of
25 state-owned land, including 16th section lands for the support of
26 public education, which generate approximately \$50 Million
27 annually for Mississippi schools, and public trust tidelands on

28 the Gulf Coast, promoting its balanced economic development, and
29 spearheaded the acquisition of more than 15,000 acres of
30 endangered coastal wetlands, including Deer Island, for permanent
31 preservation; and

32 WHEREAS, in his capacity as Secretary of State, Clark
33 overhauled the agency to provide faster, more efficient customer
34 service as he continues to enforce the laws that protect
35 Mississippi investors and has helped in the recovery of more than
36 \$26 Million in stolen money; and

37 WHEREAS, a member of the Mississippi Economic Council,
38 Mississippi Farm Bureau, Mississippi Forestry Association and
39 Mississippi Historical Society, Clark served four terms as a
40 member of the state House of Representatives prior to his election
41 as Secretary of State; and

42 WHEREAS, he has been recognized with the American Family
43 Association's "God and Country" Award for authoring the law that
44 outlawed possession of child pornography in Mississippi, and the
45 Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Conservation Legislator of the
46 Year for his efforts to preserve natural lands on the Gulf Coast;
47 and

48 WHEREAS, the son of the late Mr. John S. Clark, a former
49 Smith County Representative to the Mississippi House of
50 Representatives, and Mrs. Mamie Craft Clark, a respected community
51 leader, Eric was Valedictorian of his class at Taylorsville High
52 School and received a bachelor's degree from Millsaps College, a
53 master's degree from the University of Mississippi and a doctorate
54 in history from Mississippi State University; and

55 WHEREAS, Eric Clark is married to the former Karan Killebrew,
56 and is the proud father of two children: Charles, 19, and
57 Catherine, 13; and

58 WHEREAS, Eric Clark was a workhorse statesman who fought the
59 tough battles that needed fighting, and his integrity, ethical

60 leadership and work ethic set a model for other Mississippi
61 officials to emulate:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
63 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
64 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Secretary of State Eric Clark
65 for his distinguished service to the people of the State of
66 Mississippi and extend warmest wishes for continued success in all
67 of his future endeavors.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
69 furnished to Secretary of State Eric Clark and to the members of
70 the Capitol Press Corps.