

By: Representatives Warren, Franks, Moak

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 115

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND WORKS OF
2 DAVID F. GATES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI TRIAL
3 LAWYERS ASSOCIATION, AND EXTENDING THE SYMPATHY OF THE MISSISSIPPI
4 LEGISLATURE TO HIS SURVIVING FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, David F. Gates departed this earthly life on
6 February 13, 2007, causing great sorrow and sadness to his family
7 and many friends and colleagues; and

8 WHEREAS, David F. Gates served for a quarter of a century as
9 Executive Director of the Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association
10 and was loved and respected by legions of colleagues and friends
11 throughout Mississippi, the United States and beyond; and

12 WHEREAS, dedicated to the mission and values of the
13 Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association, David understood the vital
14 importance of the civil justice system and the right to trial by
15 jury for every American; and

16 WHEREAS, in 1990-1991, David was honored by his fellow state
17 trial lawyer association leaders when they elected him President
18 of the National Association of Trial Lawyer Executives; and

19 WHEREAS, born March 7, 1948, in Plaquemines Parish,
20 Louisiana, David never lost his sense of commitment to community
21 or his affection for the small towns of the South, such as the
22 Reservoir area of Brandon, Mississippi, where he lived with his
23 family; and

24 WHEREAS, David's unwavering commitment to community, faith
25 and family led him to serve as a dedicated usher and small group
26 leader at Pinelake Baptist Church; and

27 WHEREAS, in addition to his long and heroic defense of the
28 Seventh Amendment, David deeply loved his country and loyally
29 served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War; and

30 WHEREAS, David was a graduate of Pearl River Community
31 College, where he was an outstanding member of the football team,
32 and of the University of Southern Mississippi, where he was a
33 member of Sigma Nu fraternity; and

34 WHEREAS, regularly bringing joy and laughter with him
35 wherever he went, David had a good sense of humor which lightened
36 the lives and workdays of the association's members and employees
37 and his many colleagues and friends; and

38 WHEREAS, David, always a source of help, optimism and humor,
39 was the epitome of an outstanding leader of the Mississippi trial
40 lawyers and partner of other state trial lawyer associations and
41 the American Association for Justice; and

42 WHEREAS, David has been fondly remembered by his colleagues
43 as: a "true friend...marvelous mentor and boss...truly 'first
44 class' in every way"; a "remarkable man with a generous and
45 kind-hearted spirit"; the "consummate diplomat...a true giant"; a
46 man of "friendly Southern charm"; a "great leader"; someone "who
47 could always make me laugh"; and one who simply "was fun, loved a
48 prank, generous, always helpful" and who always put other people
49 first; and

50 WHEREAS, for many members of the Mississippi Legislature,
51 David F. Gates was a rock at times when grounding was needed, a
52 source of inspiration when encouragement was needed, and a light
53 heart when a laugh was needed; and

54 WHEREAS, David F. Gates will be greatly missed by his beloved
55 wife, Sandy Burge Gates, his cherished daughter, Summer Lauren
56 Gates, his brother, Tom Gates, and his entire family and countless
57 friends and colleagues:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING

60 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life of David F. Gates and
61 express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for his many works
62 and our deepest sympathy to his family on the sad occasion of his
63 departure from this life.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
65 furnished to Mrs. Sandy Burge Gates, the Mississippi Trial Lawyers
66 Association and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.