

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2 OF THE HONORABLE LEONARD MORRIS, REPRESENTATIVE FROM HOUSE
3 DISTRICT 11, FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND DEDICATED
4 SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND EXPRESSING
5 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY UPON HIS PASSING.

6 WHEREAS, Leonard Morris, a 16-year member of the House of
7 Representatives from District 11, which includes Panola and Tate
8 Counties, departed this earthly life on Friday, January 12, 2007,
9 to enter into eternal rest with his heavenly father, causing great
10 sorrow and loss to his family and friends; and

11 WHEREAS, Representative Morris was born on September 15,
12 1947, the youngest child of William M. and Azalee Houston Morris
13 and grew up in Batesville, Mississippi, later earning degrees from
14 Northwest Mississippi Community College and the University of
15 Mississippi and attending the University of Oklahoma Economic
16 Development Institute, before beginning his career as a public
17 servant by becoming Executive Director of the North Delta Planning
18 and Development District and serving on the Panola County School
19 Board; and

20 WHEREAS, he began his service as a legislator when he became
21 a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1993,
22 gaining his stature as a statesman by rising from freshman
23 lawmaker to Vice Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee,
24 where his experience in economic development proved an invaluable
25 asset to the committee, and culminating in his 2004 appointment to
26 serve as Chairman of the House Medicaid Committee, in addition to
27 serving as a member of the House Constitution, Education, Fees and
28 Salaries of Public Officers and Municipalities Committees; and

29 WHEREAS, during his tenure in the House, Representative
30 Morris demonstrated a steadfast commitment to his constituency,
31 positioning himself to take a leading role in virtually every
32 meaningful economic development, educational, health care and
33 medical insurance reform measure that has been addressed by the
34 Mississippi Legislature; and

35 WHEREAS, demonstrating that he was one of the rare leaders
36 who was able to lead effectively while promoting and protecting
37 the strength of the Legislature, Representative Morris was known
38 to be a fair and evenhanded steward of the legislative process
39 with a calm and respectful demeanor towards his colleagues and a
40 willing and tenacious spirit to act in the best interests of the
41 citizens of this state; and

42 WHEREAS, Representative Morris' leadership abilities have
43 been recognized nationally, having served on the Energy and
44 Environment Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference of
45 the Council of State Governments and as a member of the Board of
46 Trustees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
47 (SACS), serving as president during the merger of SACS and the
48 North Central Association; and

49 WHEREAS, Representative Morris was widely admired for his
50 talent in building consensus amongst his legislative colleagues,
51 regardless of the issue at hand, and the members of the House
52 relied on that talent in the face of challenging legislative
53 deliberations; and

54 WHEREAS, in addition to his career as a realtor and
55 statesman, Representative Morris was a faithful member of Concord
56 Missionary Baptist Church, as well as a devoted husband to wife,
57 Belinda Faye Morris, and father of two daughters, Lenora and
58 Lillian, who have supported their husband and father in all of his
59 endeavors; and

60 WHEREAS, having served his constituents and the entire
61 citizenry of Mississippi to the utmost of his ability during his

62 legislative career, the contributions that Representative Morris
63 have made will never be forgotten, as the members of the House of
64 Representatives express their sincere appreciation for the life of
65 Representative Morris, for his dedicated service to the people of
66 the State of Mississippi and for the personal sacrifices that he
67 has made on their behalf:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
69 REPRESENTATIVES, That we do hereby commend the life, legacy and
70 accomplishments of our friend and colleague, the Honorable
71 Representative Leonard Morris, for all that he has meant to the
72 Mississippi House of Representatives and for his unmatched
73 contributions to the people of the State of Mississippi, and
74 express our deepest sympathy to his family upon his passing.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
76 furnished to the family of Representative Morris and to the
77 members of the Capitol Press Corps.