

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. SAM
2 BARLOW PARKER TO EDUCATION, THIS STATE AND HIS COMMUNITY IN THE
3 TOWN OF FLORENCE, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, born in Harrisville, Mississippi, on March 3, 1922,
5 Mr. Sam Barlow Parker got his humble beginning and work ethic
6 while being reared on a Harrisville farm and working on two of his
7 uncle's farms; and

8 WHEREAS, after graduating from Harrisville High School in
9 1939, Mr. Parker attended Copiah-Lincoln Junior College (Co-Lin)
10 and continued to work on the family farm in addition to working
11 for the athletic department at Co-Lin before transferring to
12 Mississippi A&M, which later changed to Mississippi State College,
13 and is now known as Mississippi State University, where he worked
14 in the cafeteria and at the YMCA and earned a degree in education;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Parker joined the United States Army and
17 reported to Camp Shelby on May 2, 1943, shortly after the war's
18 onset, underwent six weeks of basic training and spent
19 approximately one year at Camp Lee, Virginia, before being
20 deployed for a two-year tour of combat duty in the South Pacific;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Parker commenced his teaching career upon his
23 return from military service at Inverness High School, where he
24 remained for a year teaching vocational agriculture before moving
25 to Florence to run a grocery store with his brothers, Roy and Bud;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, it was also during this time that Mr. Parker began
28 teaching and coaching boys and girls basketball at Florence High
29 School, forging lasting relationships with his ex-players and
30 students; and

31 WHEREAS, Mr. Parker served as Principal of Florence High
32 School before being named Superintendent of the Florence Schools,
33 a position wherein he was able to recruit many outstanding
34 teachers, administrators and coaches and built a new high school
35 in 1965 before leaving later that year to become the Assistant
36 Superintendent of Education in Madison County and then Rankin
37 County before eventually becoming the Federal Programs Director
38 for the Mississippi Department of Education; and

39 WHEREAS, after 17 years in the Department of Education, Mr.
40 Parker retired in 1986 to his home in the Town of Florence, where
41 his impact over the past 60 years has been significant, not only
42 in education, but as a founding member of the Florence Lion's Club
43 and many other civic contributions; and

44 WHEREAS, his love and dedication to his beloved home is
45 reflected in the city naming a downtown street after him as well
46 as the old high school gymnasium, which is now the new middle
47 school; and

48 WHEREAS, Mr. Parker, who lost his loving wife, Maude Ellen
49 Parker, to cancer in 1961, has enjoyed the days of his retirement
50 to the fullest with sons, Randy and Bob, and their families and
51 Mississippi State University athletics, in addition to serving on
52 the Region 8 Mental Health Board and the Hinds Community College
53 Board for Rankin County; and

54 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
55 recognize and commend excellence in the lives of such a remarkable
56 individual as Mr. Parker, whose contribution to education in
57 Mississippi has had long lasting and far reaching effects upon the
58 lives of many Mississippians and students throughout the southern
59 region:

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
61 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
62 commend the life and contributions of Mr. Sam Barlow Parker to
63 education throughout the state and for his diligence in service to
64 his home community of Florence, Mississippi, and extend sincere
65 and heartfelt wishes for continued health, love, joy and success
66 in all of his future endeavors.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
68 furnished to Mr. Sam Barlow Parker and to the members of the
69 Capitol Press Corps.