

By: Representatives Ellis, Dickson, Espy,  
Harrison

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 42

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
2 DR. RICHARD HOLMES, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO ENROLL AT  
3 MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Holmes, the first African American to  
5 enroll at Mississippi State University (MSU) has made many  
6 outstanding academic and professional accomplishments; and

7 WHEREAS, born on February 17, 1944, in Chicago to his loving  
8 parents, Horace and Minnie Holmes, Dr. Holmes was reared in  
9 Starkville, Mississippi, by Ms. Eliza Hunter, a family friend,  
10 known as his beloved "grandmother"; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Holmes, who was taught the importance of  
12 honesty, faith and receiving an education, graduated from  
13 segregated Henderson High School in 1963 and afterwards attended  
14 Wiley College in Texas before transferring to MSU; and

15 WHEREAS, on Sunday, June 19, 1965, over 41 years ago, Dr.  
16 Holmes enrolled at MSU where through his bravery and perseverance  
17 opened the door for other minorities to receive an education from  
18 not only MSU but also other public schools; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Holmes, a man of resolve, graduated from MSU in  
20 1969 after taking night and correspondence classes due to  
21 financial constraints; and

22 WHEREAS, after receiving his degree, Dr. Holmes dutifully  
23 served in the United States Army for two years and afterwards  
24 returned to MSU and completed a master's degree in microbiology  
25 and nutrition in 1973; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Holmes went on to fulfill his dream of becoming  
27 a medical doctor and finished medical school at Michigan State

28 University in 1977 and helped those in need for 23 years as an  
29 emergency room doctor in Birmingham, Alabama; and

30 WHEREAS, after returning to Columbus, Mississippi, in 2003,  
31 along with his lovely wife, Judie, Dr. Holmes was hired as a  
32 campus physician by his alma mater, MSU, where he touches the  
33 lives of students and serves as a role model and mentor; and

34 WHEREAS, as a testament of the campus and medical career  
35 achievements of Dr. Holmes, MSU named its cultural diversity  
36 center after him, which speaks volumes of the monumental  
37 contributions that he has made in the field of medicine, as well  
38 as culturally; and

39 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
40 recognize and commend the excellence of an individual such as Dr.  
41 Richard Holmes whose groundbreaking academic and professional  
42 contributions have positively affected this great state as a  
43 whole:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
45 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
46 commend the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. Richard Holmes and  
47 extend warmest wishes for much success in all his future  
48 endeavors.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
50 furnished to Dr. Richard Holmes and to the members of the Capitol  
51 Press Corps.