

By: Representatives Reynolds, Huddleston

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 49

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MR. WALTER LOUIS
2 "BIG MIKE" HAWKINS FOR HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, INCLUDING BEING
3 HIRED AS THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN DEPUTY SHERIFF AND BEING
4 ELECTED AS THE SECOND AFRICAN-AMERICAN CONSTABLE IN TALLAHATCHIE
5 COUNTY.

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Walter Louis "Big Mike" Hawkins has made many
7 historical accomplishments during his life; and

8 WHEREAS, his first historical accomplishment occurred in
9 1973, when he was hired as the first African-American Deputy
10 Sheriff in Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, since reconstruction,
11 by Sheriff Ellet R. Dogan; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1979 he made history again when he was elected as
13 the second African-American Constable in Tallahatchie County,
14 since reconstruction; and

15 WHEREAS, he faithfully executed his duties as deputy and
16 constable for many years; and

17 WHEREAS, during his law enforcement career, he also served as
18 a police officer for the Towns of Glendora, Webb and Charleston;
19 and

20 WHEREAS, before becoming a part of the history books in
21 Tallahatchie County, he played semi-pro baseball with the Hawks in
22 Champaign, Illinois, and was a teacher's aide for the West
23 Tallahatchie School District; and

24 WHEREAS, his service to the community in law enforcement
25 ended in 2002, when his health failed while serving as Chief
26 Deputy Sheriff under Sheriff William Brewer's guidance; and

27 WHEREAS, as a result of his failed health, he retired as
28 Chief Deputy Sheriff, but he continues to be a huge supporter of
29 the sheriff's department and the community; and

30 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
31 recognize the lifetime accomplishments of living history makers,
32 such as Mr. Walter Louis "Big Mike" Hawkins:

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
34 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
35 commend and congratulate Mr. Walter Louis "Big Mike" Hawkins on
36 his many accomplishments, including being hired as the first
37 African-American Deputy Sheriff and being elected as the second
38 African-American Constable in Tallahatchie County.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
40 furnished to Mr. Walter Louis "Big Mike" Hawkins and to the
41 members of the Capitol Press Corps.