

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING MR. HAL HOLBROOK AND CONGRATULATING
2 HIM UPON ALL HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CAREER SUCCESSES AS AN ACTOR.

3 WHEREAS, Harold Rowe Holbrook, Jr., whom we have come to know
4 as Hal Holbrook, was born on February 17, 1925, in Cleveland,
5 Ohio, to Harold Rowe Holbrook and Aileen Davenport; and

6 WHEREAS, Hal Holbrook entered Denison University in 1942,
7 left to serve three years in the United States Army as an engineer
8 during World War II, and subsequently graduated from Denison
9 University in 1948, where his participation in an honors program
10 on Mark Twain would launch his long career as a performer; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Holbrook, as he told Bill Moyers in an
12 interview, presented his first solo performance as Mark Twain at
13 Lock Haven State Teachers College in Pennsylvania in 1954, as a
14 "desperate alternative to selling hats or running elevators to
15 keep his family alive"; and

16 WHEREAS, later Ed Sullivan saw Holbrook's performance and
17 invited him on the Ed Sullivan Show where Holbrook received his
18 first national exposure as Twain on February 12, 1956; and

19 WHEREAS, eventually more performances and other venues would
20 solidify Mr. Holbrook's "Mark Twain Tonight" as the most enduring
21 one man show in theatrical history and would inspire many more
22 actors and actresses to bring to life characters of history to the
23 world's theater goers; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Holbrook has represented the United States of
25 America by way of Mark Twain Tonight on groundbreaking
26 performances in Europe which included the first appearance of an

27 American Drama Actor following World War II in a country behind
28 the Iron Curtain; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Holbrook's career has extended beyond Mark Twain
30 including starring roles on Broadway in Man of LaMancha, The Glass
31 Menagerie, I Never Sang for My Father; more than 60 movies
32 including most recent ones: "The Majestic," "Men of Honor," and
33 "The Firm"; and more than 100 non-Twain television appearances,
34 including 50 made-for-television films or miniseries which have
35 earned him 12 Emmy nominations, winning five; and

36 WHEREAS, Mr. Holbrook's Mark Twain Tonight passed the 2000
37 performance mark on January 17, 2004, and tomorrow night, March
38 13, 2007, in Jackson, Mississippi, will be in its 53rd year and
39 has earned him an Emmy for his 1967 television performance, a Tony
40 for his Broadway performance in 1966, and a Drama Critic's Circle
41 Award; and

42 WHEREAS, Hal Holbrook is married to Dixie Carter, a true
43 Southern Belle from our neighboring state of Tennessee; and

44 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
45 recognize and commend outstanding entertainers such as Mr.
46 Holbrook, whose long and distinguished career and interpretation
47 and portrayal of Mark Twain continues to awe all those who partake
48 in its performance:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
50 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
51 commend and congratulate Mr. Hal Holbrook upon all his outstanding
52 accomplishments and career successes as an actor and wish to
53 convey our warmest wishes for continued success in all his future
54 endeavors.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
56 furnished to Mr. Holbrook and to the members of the Capitol Press
57 Corps.