

By: Representatives Moss, Holland, Brown

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 67

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING RETIRED
2 WLBT-CHANNEL 3 WEATHERMAN WOODIE ASSAF ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH
3 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

4 WHEREAS, former WLBT-Channel 3 Weatherman Woodie Assaf will
5 celebrate his 90th birthday along with his wife, Ruby, and family
6 members on March 15, 2007, at their home in Raymond, Mississippi;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, born March 15, 1917, in McComb, Mississippi, to
9 Lebanese immigrants, Ellis and Esma Assaf, Woodie, a former radio
10 announcer, arrived at WLBT television station in 1953, helping to
11 invent the budding TV medium in Jackson, Mississippi, and came to
12 symbolize the "golden era" of early television in the Capitol
13 City; and

14 WHEREAS, married to Ruby Nickey on February 6, 1943, and to
15 their union two children were born and nurtured: Debbie Hartzog
16 and Deenie Grubbs, both of Madison, Mississippi; and

17 WHEREAS, by the time Woodie left WLBT in 2001, he had been
18 the weatherman at the same TV station longer than any other TV
19 weatherman in the nation, a record-setting 48 years; and

20 WHEREAS, two years before he left, *The Clarion-Ledger* readers
21 voted him the most popular TV personality of the millennium in
22 Mississippi; and

23 WHEREAS, his appealing warmth made him an ideal emcee for
24 many charitable events in Jackson and Central Mississippi, running
25 the gamut from tobacco-spitting contests in Raleigh to the local
26 Easter Seal Telethon which he came to symbolize; and

27 WHEREAS, a brief biography of Woodie:

- 28 • Early jobs: Paper boy, golf caddy;
- 29 • Education: McComb High School, Southwest Junior College,
30 Louisiana State University, Columbia Radio College in Chicago,
31 Illinois;
- 32 • First radio job: Disc jockey, newsman, weatherman and
33 sportscaster at WSKB (later, WHNY) in McComb, 1937;
- 34 • Military service: Army training officer, World War II;
- 35 • Subsequent radio jobs: WQBC, Vicksburg; WJDX, Jackson;
- 36 • First TV job: Selling ads, doing live commercials,
37 reporting news, weather and sports for WLBT, starting December 20,
38 1953;
- 39 • Last weather broadcast for WLBT: Noon, Friday, August 3,
40 2001; and

41 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
42 recognize and commend such a landmark event as the 90th birthday
43 of a very well-known and civic-minded Mississippian, Woodie Assaf:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
45 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
46 commend and extend warmest wishes to retired WLBT-Channel 3
47 Weatherman Woodie Assaf on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
49 furnished to Mr. Assaf, to WLBT-Channel 3 and to the members of
50 the Capitol Press Corps.