

By: Representatives Huddleston, Dickson,
Coleman (65th), Bailey, Banks, Broomfield,
Buck, Calhoun, Clark, Ellis, Harrison, Hines,
Middleton, Gardner, Robinson (63rd),
Straughter, Thomas, Watson, Young

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 99

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE DEDICATED SERVICE
2 OF R.O. WILLIAMS, LEWIS YOUNGER, Jr., AND WALTER CROSBY UPON BEING
3 THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY
4 PATROL.

5 WHEREAS, throughout American history, African Americans have
6 contributed to the construction of the foundation of this nation
7 by setting benchmarks of excellence by which others could pattern
8 themselves after; and

9 WHEREAS, R.O. Williams, Lewis Younger, Jr., and Walter
10 Crosby, retired officers of the Mississippi Highway Patrol, fall
11 nothing short of this benchmark, as these three individuals
12 established a milestone in African-American and Mississippi
13 history by becoming the first African-American highway patrolmen;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, R.O. Williams, born September 12, 1950, in McComb,
16 Pike County, Mississippi, to Hillary and Letha Williams, Sr.,
17 graduated from Eva Gordon Attendance Center in 1968, attended
18 Utica Junior College from 1968-1970 and graduated from Tougaloo
19 College; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams entered patrol school June 18, 1972,
21 one of 50 members of Class No. 12 and one of 32 who successfully
22 completed academy coursework and training, graduating on September
23 1, 1972; and

24 WHEREAS, having retired from the patrol in 1996 as Master
25 Sergeant of Investigation after 24 years of distinguished service,
26 Mr. Williams has since been employed with the United States
27 Marshal Service, the Mississippi State Senate as Sergeant-at-Arms,

28 the United States Census Bureau and presently working with the
29 Mississippi State Capitol Police; and

30 WHEREAS, Lewis Younger, Jr., born September 8, 1950, in Eden,
31 Mississippi, on the outskirts of Yazoo City, to Lewis, Sr., and
32 Mary Younger, graduated from N.D. Taylor High School in 1968 and
33 attended Jackson State University; and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Younger entered patrol school June 18, 1972, one
35 of 50 members of Class No. 12 and one of 32 who successfully
36 completed academy coursework and training, graduating on September
37 1, 1972; and

38 WHEREAS, having retired from the patrol in 1992 as Major
39 after 20 years of distinguished service, Mr. Younger currently
40 serves as the City of Jackson's Code Enforcement Officer and
41 referees high school basketball; and

42 WHEREAS, Walter Crosby, born May 29, 1950, in Hattiesburg,
43 Mississippi, to O.C. and Cleo Crosby, graduated from Rowan High
44 School in 1968 and attended the University of Southern Mississippi
45 for two years; and

46 WHEREAS, Mr. Crosby entered patrol school June 18, 1972, one
47 of 50 members of Class No. 12 and one of 32 who successfully
48 completed academy coursework and training, graduating on September
49 1, 1972; and

50 WHEREAS, having retired from the patrol in 1982 as Sergeant
51 after 10 years of distinguished service; and

52 WHEREAS, due to great strides of these individuals to
53 transcend barriers and nuances to blaze a trail for other aspiring
54 law enforcement officers to follow, Mississippi's law enforcement
55 personnel are among the nation's elite in serving and protecting
56 the state's populace, holding fast to the "Virtue Et Armis"
57 coat-of-arms; and

58 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize these
59 remarkable individuals and their efforts to become shining

60 examples of excellence, depicting the power of perseverance and
61 determination to effectuate change in our state's history:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
63 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
64 commend the dedicated service of R.O. Williams, Lewis Younger,
65 Jr., and Walter Crosby upon being the first African-American
66 members of the Mississippi Highway Patrol and extend sincere
67 wishes for continued success in all their future endeavors.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
69 furnished to R.O. Williams, Lewis Younger, Jr., Walter Crosby and
70 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.