

By: Representatives Akins, McBride, Reynolds To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 109

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROFESSOR GEORGE
2 ANTHONY CARBONE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY.

3 WHEREAS, Professor George Anthony Carbone, born on May 14,
4 1917, will reach a magnificent milestone on that date and turn 90
5 years old; and

6 WHEREAS, Professor Carbone served as a teacher and mentor who
7 energized the intellect of the generation of students at the
8 University of Mississippi that followed World War II.

9 WHEREAS, with insight and wisdom and a commanding presence in
10 the classroom, Professor Carbone taught students the lessons of
11 history of the Old World from which our ancestors and our nation
12 came.

13 WHEREAS, though Professor Carbone's professional and academic
14 career took him back to his native West Coast where his family
15 lived, it is altogether fitting and proper that the people of
16 Mississippi, honor and commemorate his 15 years of distinguished
17 service in this state; and

18 WHEREAS, born in Napa, California, Professor Carbone lived
19 for a number of years in San Francisco, California, and in 1940 he
20 married Marguerite Rodoani and they had two children, Edwin
21 Frederick and Karen Jones, twins born December 5, 1943; and

22 WHEREAS, Professor Carbone's formal educational achievements
23 include a bachelor of arts degree from the University of
24 California in 1939, a master of arts in history from the
25 University of California in 1941, and a doctor of philosophy in
26 history from the University of California in 1947; and

27 WHEREAS, while receiving his formal education, Professor
28 Carbone served as a Teaching Fellow and a Junior Instructor in
29 history at the University of California, was awarded a Sigmund
30 Martin Traveling Fellowship to Harvard University for 1945-1946
31 and served as a Teaching Fellow in history at Harvard in the
32 spring semester of 1946; and

33 WHEREAS, it was the good fortune of the State of Mississippi
34 that on September 1, 1946, Professor Carbone became Acting
35 Associate Professor of History at the University of Mississippi,
36 rising to Associate Professor of History on June 2, 1947, and full
37 Professor of History on September 1, 1949; and

38 WHEREAS, Professor Carbone left Ole Miss, at the end of the
39 1961 academic year, having enriched the minds and understanding of
40 a special generation of young Mississippians; and

41 WHEREAS, through his years at Ole Miss, Professor Carbone
42 taught a broad spectrum of courses in the History of Western
43 Civilization, beginning with his annual offerings in History 101,
44 From the Decline of the Roman Empire through 1688, and the
45 Glorious Revolution in England, and followed in the second
46 semester with History 102, beginning with the English Bill of
47 Rights and focusing on European History from 1689 through the then
48 present time; and

49 WHEREAS, Professor Carbone's freshman history survey courses
50 occasioned a great awakening for so many who returned for his
51 upper level courses in Revolutionary Europe, 1789-1848; European
52 Diplomacy, 1848-1914; Russian History; and Greek and Roman
53 History; and

54 WHEREAS, as a function of his eminence as a Scholar in
55 Russian History, Professor Carbone served as host for a remarkable
56 1955 visit to the University of Mississippi by Alexander Kerensky,
57 leader of the Russian Provisional Government following the fall of
58 Tsar Nicholas II in February 1917, only to see his hopes for a

59 democratically elected constituent assembly in Russia dashed with
60 the Bolshevik takeover in 1917; and

61 WHEREAS, Professor Carbone served as faculty advisor to
62 foreign students attending Ole Miss, mentoring many coming to this
63 country for the first time; and

64 WHEREAS, notably, in March 1957, Professor Carbone welcomed
65 John G. Adler and Charles Tilly, each a refugee from Soviet
66 repression in their native Hungary the year before and Adler
67 became Chairman of Adaptec, Inc., and has endowed a scholarship at
68 the University of Mississippi School of Engineering; and

69 WHEREAS, during his years at the University of Mississippi,
70 Professor Carbone was a member of the History Honor Society,
71 Language Honor Society, American Historical Association, Pi Mu
72 Iota, American Association of University Professors, Southern
73 Historical Society and other professional organizations; and

74 WHEREAS, Professor Carbone has cherished his Italian heritage
75 and in his credentials offered to the University of Mississippi,
76 to show fitness for his new position, Professor Carbone listed
77 that he was a Reader in Italian and Diplomatic History; and

78 WHEREAS, Professor Carbone flourished in special
79 opportunities for study and teaching in the land of his forebears
80 and from 1949-1950, he was a Fulbright Scholar in Italy, while on
81 leave from the University of Mississippi; and

82 WHEREAS, for the 1955-1956 academic year, Professor Carbone
83 was a Fulbright Lecturer in Political History at the Institute of
84 European Studies at the University of Turin in Turin, Italy; and

85 WHEREAS, Professor Carbone's imposing appearance in the
86 classroom, punctuated by premature baldness, generated the
87 occasional freshman speculation that he bore a resemblance to
88 Benito Mussolini, always drawing a smile followed by a gentle, but
89 unequivocal assurance that he was no admirer of the fascist
90 dictator of Italy, no matter how punctual the trains may have
91 been; and

92 WHEREAS, in 1961, Professor Carbone felt the call of his
93 family and home and accepted a position at what is now Portland
94 State University, because of "his desire to be closer to his
95 children and elderly parents," and so in the fall of 1961, he
96 joined the history faculty at Portland State University, where he
97 remains Professor of History Emeritus in the Department of Liberal
98 Arts and Sciences; and

99 WHEREAS, students of Professor Carbone for those 15 years at
100 the University of Mississippi have grown to maturity, pursued
101 their diverse careers and life patterns in all parts of America,
102 but many remained in Mississippi; and

103 WHEREAS, Professor George Anthony Carbone lost his lovely
104 wife of 60 years in 2000, having previously lost his son, Edwin,
105 in 1989, at the age of 46; and

106 WHEREAS, Professor Carbone enjoys his daughter, Karen, three
107 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, who lovingly support
108 him in all of his endeavors; and

109 WHEREAS, as a testament of Professor Carbone's love of
110 Mississippi, he recently wrote to a former student, "Another
111 memory I cherish is the basic courtesy and common decency of
112 Mississippi students. I hope this hasn't changed"; and

113 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
114 express appreciation and gratitude for great individuals such as
115 Professor George Anthony Carbone, who enriched the minds and
116 ennobled the lives of his many students, who in turn have made
117 this state and nation a better place to live:

118 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
119 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
120 extend warmest wishes to Professor George Anthony Carbone for a
121 happy 90th birthday and express great gratitude for his
122 contributions to the State of Mississippi.

123 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
124 furnished to Professor George Anthony Carbone, Chancellor of the

125 University of Mississippi, and to the members of the Capitol Press
126 Corps.