

By: Representatives Holland, Turner

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 132

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LEGACY OF RALPH WADE BRUCE UPON  
2 BEING MEMORIALIZED BY SHANNON HIGH SCHOOL UPON ITS NAMING THE  
3 SHANNON HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL-SOFTBALL COMPLEX THE "RALPH BRUCE  
4 FIELD."

5 WHEREAS, the late, longtime Shannon High School basketball  
6 and baseball coach, Ralph Wade Bruce, is being memorialized by  
7 Shannon High School in its decision to name the baseball field in  
8 his honor; and

9 WHEREAS, a standout athlete at Saltillo High School, Itawamba  
10 Community College and Mississippi College, Coach Bruce began his  
11 23-year coaching career at Shannon in 1970, during which time his  
12 teams earned championship honors in the Little Ten and Tombigbee  
13 Conference and advancing to the state play-offs; and

14 WHEREAS, Coach Bruce led the 1974 Lady Raiders basketball  
15 team to the Class 1A State Championship and to runner-up status in  
16 the prestigious Grand Slam Tournament, and became the first coach  
17 in the school's history to lead the boys team to the state playoff  
18 tournament in Jackson; and

19 WHEREAS, instrumental in founding the Northeast Mississippi  
20 Coaches Association of Better Baseball, he was named "Coach of the  
21 Year" by that organization in 1994; and

22 WHEREAS, in a resolution duly adopted by the Lee County  
23 School Board, Coach Bruce's life, legacy and contributions to the  
24 school's athletic program will be commemorated by the board in its  
25 naming the baseball field at Shannon High School Baseball-Softball  
26 Complex the "Ralph Bruce Field"; and

27 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend the life of  
28 Coach Bruce upon the bestowing of this posthumous honor to be

29 shared by his surviving family members: wife, Nancy Hamilton  
30 Bruce; his mother, Mavis; brother, Johnny; children, Leslie,  
31 Jacob, Casey and John Paul; his grandchildren; and remaining  
32 family and a host of friends:

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
34 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
35 commend the life, legacy and contributions of Ralph Wade Bruce,  
36 upon the naming of the Shannon High School Baseball-Softball  
37 Complex as the "Ralph Bruce Field" in his honor.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
39 furnished to the family of Coach Ralph Wade Bruce, Shannon High  
40 School and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.