

By: Senator(s) White

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

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

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

7 WHEREAS, a former radio announcer, Woodie arrived at WLBT
8 television station in 1953, helping to invent the budding TV
9 medium in Jackson, Mississippi, and came to symbolize the "golden
10 era" of early television in the Capitol City; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, a brief biography of Woodie:

- 22 • Born March 15, 1917;
- 23 • Native of McComb, Mississippi;
- 24 • Parents, Ellis and Esma Assaf, immigrants from Lebanon;
- 25 • Married on February 6, 1943, to Ruby Nickey of McComb;
- 26 • Children, Debbie Hartzog and Dennie Grubbs, both of
27 Madison, Mississippi;

- 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 with great pride that we recognize this
42 landmark event in the life of a very well-known and civic-minded
43 Mississippian:

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

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
49 Woodie and be made available to Channel 3 and the Capitol Press
50 Corps.