

By: Representatives Barker, Watson,
Fillingane, Byrd

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 53

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CITY OF HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI,
2 ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING ITS 125th ANNIVERSARY AS AN
3 INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITY IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI SINCE ITS
4 FOUNDING IN 1882.

5 WHEREAS, the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, founded in
6 1882 by pioneer lumberman and civil engineer, Captain William H.
7 Hardy, originally called Twin Forks and later Gordonville, and
8 given its final name in honor of his wife, Hattie, celebrates the
9 125th anniversary of its founding this year in 2009; and

10 WHEREAS, incorporated in 1884, two years after its founding,
11 with a population of only 400 citizens, Hattiesburg's population
12 saw its first surge as a center of the lumber and railroad
13 industries when the Southern Railway System was built from
14 Meridian through Hattiesburg to New Orleans, and also upon the
15 completion of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad from Gulfport to
16 Jackson, now part of the Illinois Central System; and

17 WHEREAS, Hattiesburg gained its nickname, the "Hub City," in
18 1912, as a result of a contest in a local newspaper, premised on
19 the fact that the city was the intersection of a number of
20 important rail lines, and later also becoming the intersection of
21 state highways, U.S. Highway 49, U.S. Highway 98 and U.S. Highway
22 11, and later Interstate 59, being centrally located less than 100
23 miles from the state capital of Jackson as well as the Mississippi
24 Gulf Coast, Meridian, Natchez, New Orleans and Mobile, Alabama;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, throughout the 20th Century, Hattiesburg, situated
27 in both Forrest and Lamar Counties, benefited from the founding of



28 Camp Shelby, a national military mobilization training center; two
29 major hospitals, Forrest General Hospital and Wesley Medical
30 Center; and two colleges, the University of Southern Mississippi
31 and William Carey University; and

32 WHEREAS, having developed into a center for arts and cultural
33 development, the "Hub City" has a regional trade area comprised of
34 more than 300,000 and is one of the fastest growing areas of the
35 state, ranking third in sales tax revenue and as the fourth
36 largest city in the state with a population of nearly 50,000
37 persons; and

38 WHEREAS, the history of Hattiesburg recounts the prolific
39 struggles and triumphs of the city's African-American community,
40 as it was a pivotal point of activity during Freedom Summer in
41 1964 during the Civil Rights Movement; and

42 WHEREAS, the city boasts a unique and profoundly rich history
43 complete with the marvels of war, religion, athletics, performing
44 arts and government, including being historically claimed as the
45 very heart of the birth of the blues as well as rock and roll in
46 Mississippi; and

47 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
48 recognize and commend the heritage and history of the state's
49 villages, towns, cities and counties, such as Hattiesburg,
50 Mississippi, whose abundance of riches have contributed to the
51 unique and valuable qualities that make the State of Mississippi
52 unquestionably the greatest state in the nation:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
54 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
55 commend the City of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on the occasion of
56 celebrating its 125th anniversary as an incorporated municipality
57 in the State of Mississippi since its founding in 1882 and extend
58 heartiest wishes for continued success.



59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
60 furnished to the Mayor and City Council of Hattiesburg and to the
61 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

