

By: Representatives Perkins, Coleman (65th)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED SUCCESS
2 AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE OF MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY AND
3 CONGRATULATING THE ADMINISTRATION, FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS AND
4 ALUMNI UPON THE OCCASION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S 60TH YEAR
5 ANNIVERSARY.

6 WHEREAS, the legacy of Mississippi Valley State University,
7 one of 105 national Historically Black Colleges and Universities
8 in the United States and one of eight HBCU establishments in
9 Mississippi, was birthed some 64 years ago by legislation enacted
10 by the Mississippi Legislature in 1946 authorizing the
11 establishment of the institution under the name Mississippi
12 Vocational College, for the purpose of training teachers for rural
13 and elementary schools and to provide vocational training; and

14 WHEREAS, sixty years after the groundbreaking ceremony, held
15 on February 19, 1950, with the late Honorable Governor Fielding
16 Wright, the Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher
17 Learning, the university's first president, Dr. James Herbert
18 White, and opening its doors in the summer of 1950 with enrollment
19 of 205 in-service teachers, Mississippi Valley State University
20 boasts a rich legacy of distinguished service and academic success
21 that has produced some of the nation's most prominent leaders,
22 philanthropists, educators, politicians and athletes; and

23 WHEREAS, since its first academic year in 1950-1951, opening
24 with 14 regular students, seven faculty members, offering the
25 bachelor of science degree in 14 areas and providing Extension
26 Services, the institution, Mississippi's youngest state-assisted
27 institution of higher learning, whose name was changed to
28 Mississippi Valley State College in 1964, was authorized to offer



29 the liberal arts degree as well as the science and education
30 degrees; and

31 WHEREAS, the Honorable Governor William A. Waller signed into
32 law the bill granting university status to the institution on
33 March 15, 1974, giving the institution its present title as
34 Mississippi Valley State University, representing its rapid
35 evolvement into a leading 21st century model institution of higher
36 learning and educational mecca, with more than 14,500 alumni,
37 2,733 currently enrolled students and offering 12 undergraduate
38 degree programs and six graduate degree programs; and

39 WHEREAS, since its inception, Mississippi Valley State
40 University has been one of the State of Mississippi's leading
41 torchbearers for advancing the cause for providing high quality
42 and affordable higher education opportunities for scholars
43 throughout our state, nation and world, a mission that has been of
44 foremost importance to each of the institution's six presidents,
45 including: Dr. James Herbert White, Dr. Earnest A. Boykins, Dr.
46 Joe L. Boyer, Dr. William W. Sutton, Dr. Lester C. Newman, and
47 current president, Dr. Donna H. Oliver, the university's first
48 female president, who began serving January 1, 2009; and

49 WHEREAS, located in Leflore County, Mississippi Valley State
50 University is a Carnegie Master's I institution, which provides
51 accessible, relevant and quality academic and public service
52 programs, and has received accreditation from the American
53 Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the
54 National Association of Sports and Physical Education, the
55 Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs, the
56 Council on Social Work Education, the National Accreditation
57 Council for Environmental Health Curricula, the National
58 Association of Schools of Art and Design, the National Association
59 of Schools of Music, the National Collegiate Athletic Association,
60 the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education,



61 the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the
62 Mississippi State Department of Education; and

63 WHEREAS, as the university continues its endeavors to provide
64 additional programs that are vital and unique to the needs of the
65 population it serves, the university emphasizes the incorporation
66 of an international focus on governmental, economic and cultural
67 affairs through memberships in more than 30 various academic and
68 professional associations, including: the American Assembly of
69 College Schools of Business, American Association of Colleges for
70 Teacher Education, American Association of Collegiate Registrars
71 and Admission Officers, American Council on Education, American
72 Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, Council on Colleges
73 and Universities, Mississippi Association for Supervision and
74 Curriculum Development, Mississippi Association of Colleges for
75 Teacher Education, National Association of Collegiate Deans and
76 Registrars, National Council of Teachers of English, National
77 Collegiate Athletic Association, Southwestern Athletic Conference,
78 and Teacher Education Council for Schools, Colleges and
79 Universities, to name a few; and

80 WHEREAS, upholding the banner of its motto: "The Valley of
81 Scholars," Mississippi Valley State University has been hailed by
82 *U. S. News & World Report* as one of America's best in the southern
83 region; and

84 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we acknowledge the
85 continued academic greatness of the proficiency afforded by
86 institutions of higher learning which serve as the vanguard for
87 enhancing the educational aptitude and pursuits of our state's
88 youth, as evidenced by the history and growing legacy of
89 Mississippi Valley State University:

90 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
91 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
92 THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize the distinguished success and
93 academic excellence of Mississippi Valley State University,



94 congratulate the administration, faculty, staff, students and
95 alumni upon the occasion of the university's 60th year
96 anniversary, and extend sincere wishes for continued success.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
98 furnished to President Donna Oliver, the President of the National
99 Alumni Association, the President of the Student Government
100 Association and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

