

By: Representatives Barker, Byrd, Dedeaux,  
Fillingane, Parker, Walley, Warren, Watson,  
Patterson, Weathersby

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 67

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF,  
2 ADMINISTRATION, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN  
3 MISSISSIPPI, BOTH PAST AND PRESENT, UPON THE ONE HUNDREDTH  
4 ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING.

5 WHEREAS, March 30, 2010, marks the one hundredth anniversary  
6 of the founding of the University of Southern Mississippi; and

7 WHEREAS, the University of Southern Mississippi began as  
8 Mississippi Normal College through the passage of House Bill No.  
9 204, which was introduced by State Representative Marshall  
10 McCullough of Lincoln County, then passed by the Mississippi House  
11 of Representatives on March 16, 1910, approved by the Senate a  
12 week later and signed into law by Governor Edmond Favor Noel on  
13 March 30, 1910, with no state appropriation; and

14 WHEREAS, during the search for a location for the college,  
15 Hattiesburg residents, Dr. T.E. Ross, Mr. H.A. Camp and Mr. A.A.  
16 Montague, saw the tremendous opportunity for their city and state,  
17 and donated 120 acres of land on a stretch of wilderness a few  
18 miles west of downtown Hattiesburg, thus enabling Hattiesburg to  
19 be chosen over Jackson and Laurel as the site for the new college;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, leaders of the City of Hattiesburg and Forrest  
22 County took the bold and courageous step of selling bonds to raise  
23 the needed money to build the first buildings on the new college's  
24 campus; and

25 WHEREAS, the first classes began at Mississippi Normal  
26 College on September 18, 1912, under the leadership of its first  
27 president, Dr. David Anderson Cook, with the education and



28 training of new teachers to serve the people of Mississippi as the  
29 college's mission; and

30 WHEREAS, since its inception, this noble institution has  
31 built a reputation of persevering and succeeding in both good and  
32 tumultuous times, surviving several politically motivated  
33 dismissals of presidents and even attempts by the Mississippi  
34 Legislature to close its doors; and

35 WHEREAS, this determination to succeed, advance and "do more  
36 with less" pushed the institution to greater heights, as its  
37 mission expanded and its name changed from Mississippi Normal  
38 College to State Teachers College (1924), Mississippi Southern  
39 College (1940) and, ultimately, the University of Southern  
40 Mississippi (1962); and

41 WHEREAS, under the vision and leadership of nine different  
42 presidents, the University of Southern Mississippi's breadth and  
43 depth of academic programs have evolved from its humble beginnings  
44 of solely training teachers to its current status as an  
45 internationally recognized pioneer in areas such as nursing,  
46 economic development, language disorders, marine research, gifted  
47 education, athletics, the arts and polymer science; and

48 WHEREAS, the University of Southern Mississippi has graduated  
49 over 125,000 alumni, counting among its ranks statesmen, scholars,  
50 entertainers, educators, athletes and artists; and

51 WHEREAS, the same desire to survive and succeed continues to  
52 mold and motivate its students, faculty, staff, administration and  
53 alumni, thus ensuring the University of Southern Mississippi's  
54 second century will be all the more prosperous than the first; and

55 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
56 commend 100 years of service to the State of Mississippi by such  
57 an outstanding institution as the University of Southern  
58 Mississippi:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby



61 commend the students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni and  
62 friends of the University of Southern Mississippi, both past and  
63 present, on one century of loyalty and excellence, and express  
64 best wishes on guiding the university to greater heights in the  
65 next century.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
67 furnished to President Martha Dunagin Saunders and to the members  
68 of the Capitol Press Corps.

