

By: Representative Bennett

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING TERESA BECK TILLER,
2 LONG-TIME DIRECTOR OF THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES OFFICE OF THE
3 MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON HER RETIREMENT AND
4 EXPRESSING SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR HER MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING
5 PUBLIC SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

6 WHEREAS, on June 30, 2015, Teresa Beck Tiller of Jackson,
7 Mississippi, a highly respected and talented attorney, whose many
8 years of wise counsel, unwavering loyalty and commitment to
9 excellence made her a fixture in the Mississippi State Capitol,
10 retired from her long and distinguished legal career after
11 rendering 26 years of exceptional leadership as the Director of
12 the Legislative Services Office of the Mississippi House of
13 Representatives and a total of more than 35 years of outstanding
14 public service to the Legislature and the State of Mississippi;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, born in Jennings, Louisiana, and raised in Baton
17 Rouge, Teresa, the oldest of four children, was taught from an
18 early age to appreciate the importance of education and the values
19 of respect, hard work and always striving to do her best by her



20 mother who was a professor at Louisiana State University, the late
21 Frances W. Beck, and father, William D. Beck, Jr., a geophysical
22 engineer and attorney; and

23 WHEREAS, in the spring of 1972, after graduating early from
24 St. Joseph's Academy, Teresa enrolled at LSU, where she was a
25 member of Kappa Delta Sorority, and during her undergraduate
26 years, Teresa broadened her educational experience by traveling
27 overseas to study the French language at the University of
28 Grenoble in France before enrolling in the LSU Paul M. Hebert Law
29 Center and being awarded a bachelor of art's degree from LSU upon
30 completing her first year of law school in 1976; and

31 WHEREAS, after earning her juris doctorate degree from LSU
32 and being admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1978, Teresa practiced
33 law in the private sector in Metairie and New Orleans until 1980
34 when she relocated to Jackson, gained admittance to The
35 Mississippi Bar and was hired to work in the House Legislative
36 Services Office, thereby beginning, unbeknownst to her at that
37 time, what would become a highly respected career that as of her
38 retirement, spanned well over half her lifetime; and

39 WHEREAS, during the 1980s, Teresa, then committee counsel to
40 the House Judiciary A, Judiciary B and Elections Committees,
41 experienced some of her most enjoyable years as a House attorney,
42 and while Teresa ultimately wrote and counseled legislators on
43 countless significant pieces of legislation which shaped public
44 policy in Mississippi, one of her most memorable tasks was



45 drafting the Election Code of 1986 and traveling to Washington,
46 D.C., to represent the Legislature before the United States
47 Department of Justice in order to secure the landmark
48 legislation's approval under the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

49 WHEREAS, Teresa's untiring work ethic and standard of
50 excellence, along with her natural affinity for the unique legal
51 work of a legislative attorney and proven loyalty to the House,
52 did not go unnoticed, and in June 1989, Teresa was tapped to be
53 the Director of the Legislative Services Office under then
54 newly-elected Speaker Tim Ford; and

55 WHEREAS, intent on improving both the efficiency and quality
56 of the overall work product of the LSO in her early years as
57 director, Teresa focused on transforming the mentality of the
58 staff into that of a team comprised of different players working
59 together toward a common goal, and as a means to that end, she
60 established the current system of referring bill requests to the
61 attorneys who collectively work weekends and late evening hours,
62 assisting each other when necessary, in order to maintain steady
63 progress toward meeting the daunting task of successfully
64 preparing nearly 2,000 House bills before the annual legislative
65 deadline for the introduction of those bills; and

66 WHEREAS, Teresa, always striving to improve her leadership
67 skills while advancing the legal profession in the public sector
68 and particularly, in the legislative arena, was an active
69 committee member and leader in several prominent organizations,



70 including: the Council of State Governments, as a graduate of the
71 prestigious Henry Toll Fellowship Program; the Uniform Law
72 Commission, to which she was initially appointed a Commissioner in
73 1988 and elected to Life Member status in 2009; the Southern
74 Legislative Conference, which she served as the chair of the
75 Legislative Services Agency Directors Group; and the National
76 Conference of State Legislatures, as a 1991 graduate of the
77 Legislative Staff Management Institute and the recipient of the
78 2002 Legislative Staff Achievement Award; and

79 WHEREAS, having a personal interest in the well-being of her
80 coworkers in the Capitol and the hundreds of House members for
81 whom she worked, Teresa, always thoughtful and caring of others,
82 consistently took time to learn about their families and
83 acknowledge the significant events in their lives, and her
84 unparalleled ability to build trusting relationships with all
85 House members, regardless of their diverse backgrounds or stature
86 in the Legislature, facilitated the LSO in continuously
87 maintaining its nonpartisan status and integrity through the many
88 transitions that occurred in the House throughout her tenure; and

89 WHEREAS, when not engaged in the business of the House,
90 Teresa, an avid tennis player who was captain of her United States
91 Tennis Association League team, used the same leadership skills
92 and zeal to succeed which built the LSO team to successfully
93 motivate and lead her tennis squad to at least five state



94 championship wins that earned the players the rare opportunity to
95 represent Mississippi in the USTA League regional playoffs; and

96 WHEREAS, over the years, Teresa has selflessly volunteered
97 countless hours working to better her community and state as a
98 member of the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson, a board
99 member and president of the Tri-County Community Tennis
100 Association and a board member and vice-president of the
101 Mississippi Tennis Association; and

102 WHEREAS, in 2010, the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau
103 selected Teresa to receive the Hometown Hero Award, an honor
104 presented to her in recognition of her exceptional leadership of
105 the tennis community in securing a location and hosting the
106 2009-2010 USTA Southern Sectional Mixed Doubles Championship
107 Tournament in the Jackson area, an event which brought hundreds of
108 visitors to the area, creating a positive economic impact for
109 Hinds, Madison and Rankin Counties; and

110 WHEREAS, while her decision to officially say goodbye to the
111 Mississippi House of Representatives was not made lightly, Teresa
112 and her husband, Larry -- the true love of her life who, for over
113 32 years, has been her number one supporter, encourager, calming
114 influence through stormy times, source of joy and laughter with
115 his quick-witted sense of humor, and endless provider of
116 delectable meals -- are enjoying traveling and spending much more
117 time with their family and many friends, and they especially



118 anticipate cheering their beloved LSU Tigers onto championship
119 wins on both the gridiron and baseball diamond; and

120 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to acknowledge
121 outstanding Mississippians such as Teresa Beck Tiller, one we are
122 proud to call our own, whose daily presence in the halls of the
123 Capitol is sorely missed but whose legacy of selflessness,
124 fairness, hard work, professionalism, volunteerism and overall
125 commitment to improving the individual lives of others and her
126 community, state and the entire country has made an indelible mark
127 on the Mississippi Legislature and all those who have been
128 privileged to know and work with her:

129 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
130 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
131 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Teresa Beck Tiller, longtime
132 Director of the Legislative Services Office of the Mississippi
133 House of Representatives, on the occasion of her June 30, 2015,
134 retirement and express to her our sincerest gratitude for her many
135 years of dedicated service to the State of Mississippi.

136 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do hereby extend our most
137 heartfelt wishes to our dear friend Teresa for a long and
138 joy-filled retirement marked by many years of good health, peace
139 and continued success in all her future endeavors.

140 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
141 furnished to Teresa B. Tiller and to the members of the Capitol
142 Press Corps.

