

By: Representative Denny

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 13

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSON ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 75TH  
3 ANNIVERSARY.

4 WHEREAS, the Junior League of Jackson, a charitable women's  
5 organization with a rich heritage of improving communities,  
6 developing volunteerism and empowering women, is celebrating its  
7 75th anniversary in the year 2016; and

8 WHEREAS, the Junior League of Jackson (JLJ) is able to  
9 support its 30-plus community projects, as well as its signature  
10 projects, through the successful and fiscally responsible  
11 operation of fund development businesses including, cookbooks,  
12 Touch A Truck, Mistletoe Marketplace and the Junior League Jumble;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, the Junior League's first attempt at fundraising was  
15 the 1978 publication of the popular cookbook, Southern Sideboards,  
16 followed by the 1991 companion cookbook, Come on In, which became  
17 household favorites throughout the south and received national



18 recognition, additionally, these books continue on today in a  
19 digital format still available through Amazon; and

20 WHEREAS, the Touch A Truck program has been a family favorite  
21 for the past two years, bringing a variety of vehicles to a safe  
22 location where children can learn and explore while understanding  
23 the importance of serving our community; and

24 WHEREAS, perhaps the event JLJ is most known for is the  
25 Mistletoe Marketplace, a week of premier shopping with a 35 year  
26 legacy, which has been named the Best Special Event and the Best  
27 Charity Event by the Clarion Ledger's Mississippi's Official  
28 People's Choice Awards; and

29 WHEREAS, the newest fund development business is the Junior  
30 League Jumble, which offers truly impressive bargains in the  
31 ultimate garage sale; and

32 WHEREAS, the dedication of the JLJ to our community is  
33 unfathomable with eight projects dedicated to early literacy, four  
34 projects aligned for support of health management for individuals  
35 in the community, three projects geared toward promoting the  
36 social and emotional wellness of our youth and 13 mini projects to  
37 round out the call to humanitarian and philanthropic aid; and

38 WHEREAS, the JLJ was organized in 1927, formally started in  
39 1941, and this year celebrates and reflects on 75 years of  
40 community collaborations and partnership; and

41 WHEREAS, the 1940s brought in an era of rapid change with the  
42 onset of World War II and JLJ boldly responded by organizing the



43 Civilian Defense Volunteer Office, assisted the local ration  
44 board, sold War bonds and stamps, and still made time to develop a  
45 community hospital, local library and create a radio series for  
46 children; and

47 WHEREAS, the 1950s was a post-war decade where many women  
48 returned home to focus exclusively on domesticity, but the JLJ  
49 never lost sight of their vision, lobbying the Legislature for  
50 massive change in their community, including the University of  
51 Mississippi Medical School, the passage of a Standard Adoption Law  
52 and more opportunities within the Mississippi School for the  
53 Blind; and

54 WHEREAS, while the 1960s was a time dedicated to the  
55 excitement of the moment and rock-n-roll, the JLJ had an eye to  
56 the past by volunteering with the Old Capitol Museum, an eye to  
57 the future by sponsoring a Mental Health Clinic and a passion for  
58 the here and now as well, by donating massive amounts of  
59 merchandise to Mississippi Gulf Coast residents during Hurricane  
60 Camille; and

61 WHEREAS, the JLJ devoted the 1970s to many forms of  
62 educational enhancement, by tutoring through Operation Shoe  
63 String, providing vision screening for pre-schoolers through the  
64 12th grade, teaching the public about blindness prevention and  
65 working with the Department of Archives and History to preserve  
66 history, develop walking tours, a guidebook, and educational  
67 programs for schools; and



68 WHEREAS, the 1980s brought forward JLJ's first signature  
69 project, a \$2,000,000.00 fundraising campaign to build the  
70 Children's Cancer Clinic and, in addition, JLJ created the Rockin'  
71 Mamas program to help mothers with neonatal infants and also  
72 established the Chimneyville Center for Crafts and Design; and

73 WHEREAS, technology improved exponentially, the Internet  
74 became readily available, and the JLJ carried on through the  
75 digital decade of the 1990s, raising Breast Cancer Awareness,  
76 volunteering with the Mississippi Writers Association to  
77 coordinate the Eudora Welty Film and Fiction Festival, and devoted  
78 a significant amount of time to the West Park Network; and

79 WHEREAS, the 2000s was a difficult age for the United States,  
80 as well as Mississippi, as we suffered through Hurricane Katrina,  
81 but JLJ responded gallantly with a great deal of hurricane relief  
82 to the Gulf Coast, and they also managed to devote their services  
83 to the children and youth in our State, starting with the League's  
84 second signature project, a \$1,000,000.00 financial commitment to  
85 the Mississippi Children's Museum; and

86 WHEREAS, the past 15 years have ushered a time of increasing  
87 activity within the League, including the Mississippi Children's  
88 Museum Grand Opening; the adoption of an Issue Based Community  
89 Impact Model for the selection and evaluation of its community  
90 projects, the needs identified were: early literacy, teenage  
91 pregnancy prevention and support, nutrition, physical activity and  
92 social and emotional wellness; the opening of the Literacy Garden



93 in the museum; the establishment of the Forget Me Not Fund to  
94 ensure the museum's financial stability; Touch A Truck Jackson and  
95 the Junior League Jumble; and

96 WHEREAS, the JLJ makes an incredible impact on our community  
97 with more than 2,400 members volunteering over 50,000 hours  
98 annually while raising millions of dollars, making it the premier  
99 nonprofit of Mississippi; and

100 WHEREAS, the Junior League of Jackson has come so far over  
101 the past 75 years, from serving hamburgers at the State Fair in  
102 the 1950s to packing food for hungry children in the 2000s, these  
103 women have never been afraid to go where they were needed; and

104 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to acknowledge  
105 the noble works and the humility of the Junior League of Jackson  
106 and all of its members, who have taken on the selfless role of  
107 epitomizing Good Samaritanship and establishing the benchmark of  
108 excellence in being their brothers' and sisters' keepers:

109 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
110 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
111 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Junior  
112 League of Jackson on the celebration of its 75th anniversary in  
113 2016, express to the members of the Junior League sincerest  
114 gratitude for its many years of volunteer service to the City of  
115 Jackson and the entire State of Mississippi and extend heartfelt  
116 wishes for many more years of success in all of its future  
117 endeavors.



118 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
119 furnished to the Junior League of Jackson and to the members of  
120 the Capitol Press Corps.

