

By: Representatives DeLano, Barton, Bennett, To: Rules  
Busby, Eure, Patterson, Powell, Zuber

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 72

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE  
2 LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER SENATOR WILLIAM C. "SON" RHODES  
3 OF VANCLEAVE, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY FROM  
4 THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS FAMILY UPON HIS PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the State of Mississippi lost a  
6 wonderful friend, colleague and gentleman with the death of former  
7 State Senator William C. "Son" Rhodes on August 16, 2015, at the  
8 age of 84; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Rhodes of Vancleave, who was born on  
10 February 1, 1931, in Moss Point, Mississippi, to H.M. and Hazel  
11 Rhodes, was a lifelong resident of Jackson County, and served with  
12 the United States Army during the Korean Conflict; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes was privileged to serve as a three-term  
14 member of the hallowed institution and revered fraternity of the  
15 Mississippi Legislature as a respected member of the State Senate  
16 from 1972 to 1984; and

17 WHEREAS, a graduate of Moss Point High School and the  
18 University of Southern Mississippi, he taught school and coached  
19 football at East Central High School, was an upstanding religious,



20 civic and social pillar as a member of the Dantzler Memorial  
21 United Methodist Church, a member of Young Men's Business Club of  
22 Moss Point, the American Legion Post #160, VFW Post #3373, BPOE  
23 Elks Lodge #1120, as well as many other clubs and organizations;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, while in the Senate, Mr. Rhodes, who was known for  
26 his wit, generosity and friendly personality, served as Chairman  
27 of the Oil and Gas and the Marine Conservation Committees and was  
28 active in Public Health and Mississippi Gulf Coast issues; and

29 WHEREAS, he is preceded in death by his parents, H.M. and  
30 Hazel Rhodes; brother, H.M. "Bubba" Rhodes, Jr.; sisters: Carolyn  
31 Rhodes, Hazel Henley and Katherine Rhodes Shields; and niece, Pam  
32 Shields; and

33 WHEREAS, though he has now transcended his mortal presence to  
34 embrace immortality in its purest, for to be absent from the body  
35 is to be present with the Lord, Mr. Rhodes is survived by his son,  
36 Landon Rhodes of Vancleave; former wife, Mary Rhodes of Vancleave;  
37 sisters, Dorothy Kite of Vancleave and Elaine Johnson of  
38 Pascagoula; along with numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces,  
39 great-nephews, cousins and friends; and

40 WHEREAS, William "Son" Rhodes was one of the most respected  
41 members of the Mississippi State Senate, excelled in a variety of  
42 major responsibilities and served the Senate, his constituents,  
43 colleagues and the State of Mississippi exceptionally well, and it  
44 is the policy of this Legislature to acknowledge the public



45 service of an individual whose life was exemplified by fairness  
46 and sound judgment, and the establishment of the highest standard  
47 of leadership in the Mississippi Senate and as a true friend:

48         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
49 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
50 THEREIN, That we do hereby mourn the loss and commend the life and  
51 legacy of public service of former Senator William C. "Son"  
52 Rhodes, and express to his family and friends deepest sympathy  
53 from the Legislature upon his passing and our thanks for sharing  
54 Mr. Rhodes with us and with the State of Mississippi.

55         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
56 furnished to the family of Mr. William C. "Son" Rhodes and to the  
57 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

