

By: Representative Bounds

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 85

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE  
2 LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF MR. CHARLES NOEL HUGHES, RESPECTED  
3 EMPLOYEE OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND  
4 PARKS, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS  
5 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

6 WHEREAS, "To everything there is a season, and a time to  
7 every purpose under the Heaven," and as such, on January 1, 2016,  
8 the immaculate author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned  
9 the mortal presence of dearly beloved, Mr. Charles Noel Hughes, to  
10 eternal rest, causing great sorrow and loss to his family and many  
11 friends; and

12 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the State of Mississippi lost a  
13 friend, colleague, gentleman and dedicated public servant with the  
14 passing of Mr. Hughes, "Noel" as he was affectionately called, of  
15 the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks  
16 (MDWFP); and

17 WHEREAS, a native of McComb, Mississippi, and resident of  
18 Morton, Mississippi, Noel graduated from McComb High School and  
19 furthered his postsecondary educational matriculation at Delta



20 State University and the University of Southern Mississippi, and  
21 upon completion of his baccalaureate studies immediately went to  
22 work in the professional sector before being retained as a  
23 consultant by the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries  
24 and Parks in October of 2000 to readily and reputably assist the  
25 state park system in the operation of its golf courses; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Hughes served in consultant capacity with the  
27 MDWFP for a brief time before his wealth of knowledge and  
28 efficiency of service were deemed an essential asset, which were  
29 pivotal character traits inducing the department's administration  
30 to hire him as a state employee, and resulted with his promotion  
31 to Director of State Park Operations; and

32 WHEREAS, evidencing a venerable work ethic and commitment to  
33 improve park services and increase outdoor recreational  
34 activities, Mr. Hughes later served as interim Director of State  
35 Parks, while continuing to advance in the ranks of leadership  
36 within the department, eventually becoming the Director of  
37 Intergovernmental Affairs and Community Services in 2007, the  
38 capacity in which he served until his life's expiration; and

39 WHEREAS, in his capacity as Director of Intergovernmental  
40 Affairs and Community Services, Noel became a fixture at the  
41 Capitol during the annual Regular Sessions of the Mississippi  
42 Legislature, and as fate would lend itself to the building upon  
43 the blueprint divinely designed for the pattern of his life by the  
44 Great Deity and grand architect of our lives' design, his



45 continual presence in the Capitol's corridors in addition to his  
46 love, chivalry and affection pierced the heart of Jo Ann Bates, an  
47 administrative assistant to the House of Representatives, and the  
48 duo became bone of one another's bone and flesh of one another's  
49 flesh after exchanging the nuptials of holy matrimony and forging  
50 a story book relationship as spouses, friends and professional  
51 colleagues, being that Jo Ann staffed the House committee assigned  
52 to the legislative affairs of the MDWFP; and

53 WHEREAS, Noel was a most respected public servant with a  
54 quiet, confident presence and always eager to assist a member of  
55 this most auspicious body with requests for information about  
56 natural resources, state parks or other matters, and would often  
57 personally address constituent issues for members; and

58 WHEREAS, Mr. Hughes excelled in presenting the needs of the  
59 department to the members, and forged many strong friendships in  
60 both the House and Senate irrespective of party affiliation as he  
61 represented the department, his colleagues and the State of  
62 Mississippi in exceptional fashion in the performance of all of  
63 his duties; and

64 WHEREAS, Noel's public service was exemplified by fairness  
65 and sound counsel, as he set the highest standard as a friend of  
66 the Legislature and the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and  
67 Parks, and now enjoys the eternal peace described in Luke 2:29,  
68 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according  
69 to your word"; and



70           WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite  
71 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now  
72 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,  
73 the legacy of Mr. Hughes will continue to refresh the hearts and  
74 fond memories of his beloved survivors, especially his wife, Jo  
75 Ann Bates Hughes, and his colleagues of the Mississippi Department  
76 of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; and

77           WHEREAS, we encourage those who knew and loved Noel to find  
78 solace from the overwhelming sadness created by the earthly  
79 departure of their beloved family member and friend in Revelation  
80 21:4, wherein it is recorded, "And God shall wipe away all tears  
81 from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow,  
82 nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former  
83 things are passed away" and renewed in their faith that Mr. Hughes  
84 fulfilled the commandment of II Timothy 4:7 by having fought a  
85 good fight, finishing his course and keeping the faith until the  
86 hour of his departure was at hand; and

87           WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend the  
88 life of a remarkably altruistic public servant such as Mr. Hughes,  
89 whose life's light was an impassioned beacon of inspiration as he  
90 imparted his exceptional wisdom and passion for outdoor recreation  
91 into the lives of all he encountered along this earthly sojourn:

92           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
93 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
94 THEREIN, That we do hereby mourn the loss and commend the life and



95 legacy of the public service of Charles Noel Hughes, express the  
96 deepest sympathy of the Mississippi Legislature to his family and  
97 friends upon his passing and convey our immeasurable gratitude for  
98 sharing Noel with us and with the State of Mississippi.

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
100 furnished to the family of Mr. Hughes, to the Mississippi  
101 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and to the members of  
102 the Capitol Press Corps.

