

By: Representatives Touchstone, Formby,  
Baria, Barker, Corley, Johnson (87th),  
Ladner, Morgan, Pigott, Willis

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 85

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF DR. WILLIAM  
2 A. LEWIS AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS  
3 RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, after almost 50 years of public service in various  
5 Mississippi educational institutions, Dr. William A. Lewis will  
6 retire June 30, 2017, from his current position as the President  
7 of Pearl River Community College (PRCC); and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis has served as president of PRCC since  
9 2000, and during his tenure as head of Mississippi's first  
10 community college, the school has experienced a significant growth  
11 in enrollment, developed a national reputation for excellence in  
12 teaching and learning, produced a national championship in  
13 football and is widely recognized for the high quality of its arts  
14 programs; and

15 WHEREAS, a native of Clinton, Mississippi, Dr. Lewis earned a  
16 bachelor's degree from Mississippi College and later received his  
17 master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Southern  
18 Mississippi; and



19           WHEREAS, in 1991, Dr. Lewis was appointed Superintendent of  
20 the Petal School District, and during his time there, the Petal  
21 schools consistently ranked among the top districts in the State  
22 of Mississippi; and

23           WHEREAS, in 1997, with Dr. Lewis at the helm, the Petal  
24 School District offered for the first time a model program in  
25 polymer technology, and the creation of Mississippi's only  
26 secondary program in polymer technology has been credited as being  
27 a major factor in several polymer-related industries locating  
28 recently in the Hattiesburg area; and

29           WHEREAS, in recognition of his contributions to the polymer  
30 technology program, the Petal School District Board of Trustees  
31 named the Polymer Technology Building at Petal High School in  
32 honor of Dr. Lewis; and

33           WHEREAS, impressed with his laudable success as Petal's chief  
34 administrative officer, the Public Education Forum of Mississippi  
35 named Dr. Lewis as executive director in January 1998, and his  
36 role included being responsible for directing the activities of a  
37 business-support organization established to promote improvement  
38 in the state's public education system; and

39           WHEREAS, in 1999, Dr. Lewis was presented Mississippi  
40 College's Distinguished Alumni Award from the Department of  
41 Teacher Education and in 2014, he was inducted into the Alumni  
42 Hall of Fame at the University of Southern Mississippi; and



43           WHEREAS, Dr. Lewis is married to the former Janet Ladner of  
44 Gulfport, and the couple has two children, Kelli and Jay, and four  
45 grandchildren; and

46           WHEREAS, while the legacy of Dr. Lewis' career of service to  
47 the State of Mississippi will serve as an inspiration for future  
48 educators, there is no doubt that this state will miss his  
49 invaluable contributions to the education of our children; and

50           WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
51 the careers of Mississippi's outstanding educators, such as Dr.  
52 Lewis, whose contributions to the education of our state's  
53 children for almost five decades, brings great pride to his  
54 friends, family and the entire state as his impeccable record of  
55 public service serves as the paramount example of progressive  
56 innovation and selfless leadership:

57           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
58 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
59 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the career of Dr. William A.  
60 Lewis upon the occasion of his retirement, and extend best wishes  
61 for continued success in the lighter years of his retirement.

62           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
63 furnished to Dr. William A. Lewis and to the members of the  
64 Capitol Press Corps.

