

By: Representative Holland

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE CAREER AND CONTRIBUTIONS
2 OF MR. WARD EMLING, THE LONGEST-SERVING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
3 FILM COMMISSIONER, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 30
4 YEARS AS DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI FILM OFFICE.

5 WHEREAS, since its establishment in 1973 as the second film
6 commission in the world, the Mississippi Film Office has
7 successfully endeavored to produce and capture hundreds of films,
8 television projects, documentaries and commercials in every corner
9 and county of the state, having built a solid foundation in the
10 film industry by focusing on its greatest attributes: people,
11 places and an unparalleled storytelling heritage; and

12 WHEREAS, for 30 years Mr. Ward Emling has served as Director
13 of the Mississippi Film Office, first from 1980-1983, and
14 returning in 1990, and serving dutifully until the announcement of
15 his retirement this year in 2017, which garners him the esteemed
16 title of the longest-serving Film Commissioner ever, anywhere in
17 the world, and one of the longest-serving industrial developers in
18 Mississippi history; and



19 WHEREAS, born in New Orleans and raised in Jackson,
20 Mississippi, Ward Emling was educated in the Jackson Public
21 Schools and earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from
22 Millsaps College, and later pursued two years of study at the
23 Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England; and

24 WHEREAS, during Mr. Emling's 30 years of notably profound and
25 unmatched service, film production has touched every county in
26 Mississippi, creating opportunities for tens of thousands of
27 Mississippians and lifelong careers in the film industry for
28 hundreds, accounting for more than 320 films and documentaries,
29 and innumerable commercials being produced in Mississippi, which
30 in turn has resulted in total production budgets for the film and
31 television projects to a tune of almost \$500 million, with a
32 financial impact of well over \$1 billion, and incalculable public
33 relations and community development, and in the four years between
34 2012 and 2016, Mississippians working on Mississippi films rose
35 from just over \$600,000.00 to \$6.6 million; and

36 WHEREAS, Ward has guided in-state film productions, including
37 "Huck Finn," "A Time To Kill," "The Chamber," "Ghosts of
38 Mississippi," "My Dog Skip," "Cookie's Fortune," "O Brother, Where
39 Art Thou?," "The Ponder Heart," "Big Bad Love," "Ballast," "The
40 Help," "Get On Up" and "Dixieland," in addition to many short
41 films, documentaries and commercials; and

42 WHEREAS, Ward, who has represented Mississippi film and
43 culture around the world, on four continents (North America, Asia,



44 Australia and Europe), is a two-term past President of the
45 Association of Film Commissioners International (AFCI), the
46 300-member organization of film commissions from around the world,
47 and the recipient of the 2008 Arthur Lowe Crystal Vision Award for
48 Outstanding Service to the AFCI; and

49 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
50 acknowledge the exceptional works of an ambassador of Ward's
51 caliber, and it is with great pride that we commend this
52 remarkable Mississippian who is a respected member of his
53 profession and has maintained a competitive business environment
54 for filmmaking in Mississippi:

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
56 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby pay
57 tribute to the career and contributions of Ward Emling, the
58 longest-serving National and International Film Commissioner, upon
59 the occasion of his retirement after 30 years as Director of the
60 Mississippi Film Office, and extend best wishes to Mr. Emling for
61 future successes in the lighter days of his retirement.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
63 furnished to Mr. Ward Emling and to the members of the Capitol
64 Press Corps.

