

By: Representative Bell (65th)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER, SUCCESS AND
2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. VERNON PERRY AS PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI
3 CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS' ASSOCIATION.

4 WHEREAS, athlete par excellence and community servant
5 extraordinaire are just a few of the adjectives that are akin to
6 the likes of Vernon Perry, former member of the Houston Oilers and
7 New Orleans Saints, and current President of the Mississippi
8 Chapter of the National Football League Players' Association; and

9 WHEREAS, a lifelong native of Jackson, Mississippi, and a
10 Wingfield High School graduate, Perry's unmitigated athleticism
11 paved the yellow brick road to success as a standout strong safety
12 for Jackson State University, and eventually professionally in
13 both the Canadian Football League (CFL) and the National Football
14 League (NFL); and

15 WHEREAS, Perry, who played one season with the Montreal
16 Alouettes of the CFL from 1977-1978, and five seasons in the NFL
17 beginning with the Houston Oilers from 1979-1982 and the New
18 Orleans Saints during the 1983 season, has taken the act of



19 kindness shown in giving back to the community and transformed it
20 into an art of generosity and call to action; and

21 WHEREAS, best known for his stellar performances with the
22 Oilers in the 1979 American Football Conference (AFC) playoffs
23 against the San Diego Chargers when he blocked a field goal and
24 returned it 57 yards before being tackled by the holder to set a
25 NFL postseason record by intercepting 4 passes from Chargers
26 quarterback Dan Fouts, and intercepted a Terry Bradshaw pass and
27 returned it 75 yards for a touchdown on Pittsburgh's first
28 possession of the game in the AFC Championship, Perry continued to
29 exude that star power locally through his affiliation with the
30 Jackson Chapter of the National Football League Players'
31 Association; and

32 WHEREAS, with a focus on giving back to the underprivileged
33 and less fortunate, Mr. Perry championed the Association's annual
34 Celebrity Bike Giveaway in 2014, which seeks to provide new
35 bicycles to needy and deserving kids during the Christmas season,
36 and has enlisted the help of other former players including Glen
37 Collins, Rodney A. Phillips, Noland Smith, Willie Richardson,
38 Ollie Smith, Leon Seals, Jeffery Moore, Mike Jones, Frank Sutton
39 and Jerome Jennings among others; and

40 WHEREAS, the annual events have become a collaborative effort
41 between the Association and its newfound supporting affiliates
42 such as: Wal-Mart, which has assembled and delivered the bicycles
43 to Smith-Wills Stadium; the Mississippi Department of



44 Rehabilitation Services, which has provided helmets to recipients
45 of bicycles; the Army Reserve 365th Combat Sustainment Battalion;
46 and numerous school coaches in the area; and

47 WHEREAS, while his career in the professional football arena
48 may have been abbreviated, Perry's notable presence in Jackson and
49 throughout Mississippi is indelibly etched in the minds of those
50 who have benefited from his generous benevolence through his
51 community involvement, teaching at Jackson State University, as
52 well as through his business "32 Sports," a sportswear and sports
53 memorabilia retail store; and

54 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
55 and commend the selfless acts of kindness displayed by the true
56 ambassadors of this state of Mr. Perry's caliber, whose generosity
57 continues to shed light on the State of Mississippi as the
58 "hospitality state":

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
61 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the career, success and
62 contributions of Mr. Vernon Perry as President of the Mississippi
63 Chapter of the National Football League Players' Association, and
64 extend best wishes for continued success in all of his future
65 endeavors.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
67 furnished to Mr. Vernon Perry and to the members of the Capitol
68 Press Corps.

