

By: Representatives Bain, Aguirre, Boyd,
Carpenter, Gibbs (36th), Huddleston (15th),
Steverson, Turner, Gunn

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ESTEEMED LEGAL AND
2 JUDICIAL CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE TOMMY
3 GARDNER RENDERED TO THE CITIZENS OF MISSISSIPPI AS SENIOR CIRCUIT
4 COURT JUDGE FOR THE FIRST CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICT AND
5 CONGRATULATING HIM UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

6 WHEREAS, after nearly 52 years of dedicated and zealous
7 service as a barrister, arbiter and magistrate of the law, the
8 Honorable Tommy Gardner will retire his tribunal robe to the
9 closet and silence his gavel of justice, after having first begun
10 his prestigious career as a learned attorney and brilliant judge
11 in 1966; and

12 WHEREAS, for more than 37 years, the Honorable Judge Tommy
13 Gardner has proffered the State of Mississippi and its citizens
14 provident judicial service as Senior Circuit Court Judge of the
15 First Circuit Court District, after having first assumed his seat
16 on the bench upon his election in 1980; and

17 WHEREAS, a native of Jackson, Mississippi, where he was
18 educated in the city's public school system and later matriculated
19 at Millsaps College before traveling to Oxford to earn his Juris



20 Doctorate degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law
21 in 1966, where he served as chairman of the Moot Court Board and
22 member of Phi Delta Phi; and

23 WHEREAS, Judge Gardner's prestigious career as a learned
24 attorney entailed matters of the civil and criminal natures while
25 practicing as a public defender in the Circuit Court of Lee
26 County, a city prosecutor for the City of Tupelo and as assistant
27 District Attorney until the time of his election to the bench in
28 1980; and

29 WHEREAS, equally committed to the service and protected
30 liberties of this state and nation, Judge Garner joined the elite
31 fraternity of soldiers when he enlisted to serve in the United
32 States Army; and

33 WHEREAS, a 1981 graduate of The National Judicial College in
34 Reno, Nevada, Judge Gardner, who has always demonstrated himself
35 to be a driven and hardworking individual, furthered his expanded
36 judicial acuity by undergoing additional judicial college studies
37 in 1985; and

38 WHEREAS, having gained the respect of his peers and
39 colleagues as both a client's advocate and judicial officer, his
40 ethical morale, character and rapport precedes him in the legal
41 and civic communities, as evidenced by his lengthy list of
42 accomplishments, accolades, recognitions and positions,
43 including: an established record of conservative leadership as
44 Senior Circuit Court Judge, both in and outside of the courtroom;



45 serving as principal judge in the establishment of the Office of
46 the Court Administrator for the First Judicial District; and
47 promulgating the organization and rules for the office, which have
48 set the standard for the state; and

49 WHEREAS, a member of the First United Methodist Church, Judge
50 Gardner remains adamantly vigorous in his efforts of giving back
51 to the community through social, civic and charitable
52 organizations, as: a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason (KCCH); a
53 life member of the National Rifle Association; a director of the
54 Gardner-Simmons Home for Girls; a member of Kappa Sigma
55 fraternity; a Kiwanis; an affiliate of the Mississippi Horse
56 Council; and an affiliate of the Community Development Foundation
57 (CDF); and

58 WHEREAS, before and throughout the length of his spectacular
59 career, Judge Gardner has been privileged to experience the
60 blissfulness of love, support and encouragement from his wife, the
61 former Sue Overton, their two children, Tommy and Sadie, and
62 granddaughters, Caroline Margaret Gardner and Katherine Rainey
63 Gardner; and

64 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend the
65 remarkable career and public service of such an equally
66 remarkable, talented, fair and knowledgeable individual as Judge
67 Gardner, who has dedicated more than five decades of his life to
68 promoting and upholding the pristine principals of justice and
69 providing intellectual interpretation of the laws of the State of



70 Mississippi to maximize the benefits and protection of its
71 citizens:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
73 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
74 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the esteemed legal and judicial
75 career and public service of the Honorable Judge Tommy Gardner
76 rendered to the citizens of Mississippi, congratulate him upon the
77 occasion of his retirement from public service and extend warmest
78 wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
80 furnished to the Honorable Judge Tommy Gardner and to the members
81 of the Capitol Press Corps.

