

By: Representative Gunn

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER
2 AND MERITORIOUS LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF PRESIDENT LEE GARDNER
3 ROYCE UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS THE PRESIDENT OF
4 MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE.

5 WHEREAS, from 2002 until 2018, President Lee Gardner Royce
6 served with honor, distinction and steadfast faith as Mississippi
7 College's leader, and for 16 years, the students, faculty and
8 staff benefitted tremendously from his cardinal guidance and
9 innate leadership abilities; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce provided extraordinary service as
11 president to strengthen Mississippi College and build the
12 institution's national reputation, and with Dr. Royce at the helm,
13 the Mississippi College budget nearly doubled to \$75.5 million,
14 and enrollment grew from 3,200 students to nearly 5,200 students;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce served as the chief proponent of the
17 university's "Growing the Vision" campaign that raised \$87.4
18 million for scholarships, facilities, academic programs and the
19 university endowment; and



20 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce and his wife, Rhoda, served as tireless
21 goodwill ambassadors and exceptional role models for Mississippi
22 College across the State of Mississippi, the United States and in
23 other countries; and

24 WHEREAS, through his representation of the state's oldest
25 institution of higher learning, Dr. Royce likewise served as an
26 able and respected ambassador of the State of Mississippi and its
27 higher education community across the United States and in other
28 countries; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce demonstrated an extraordinary gift of
30 personally relating to others, especially students, who viewed him
31 as approachable and genuinely interested in their thoughts and
32 general well-being; and

33 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce utilized his position as president to
34 strongly support Mississippi College's hometown of Clinton,
35 Mississippi, and develop solid relationships and partnerships with
36 local leaders across the metro Jackson area; and

37 WHEREAS, for more than 190 years, Mississippi College has
38 been shaped by individuals who have devoted their time, energy,
39 and expertise to improving the quality of the students'
40 experiences, both in and out of the classroom, and Dr. Royce has
41 been an integral part of advancing the institution, as his legacy
42 encompasses, among other significant achievements, Clinton Citizen
43 of the Year, and the Executive of the Year in the Council for the
44 Advancement and Support of Education's Southern Region III; and



45 WHEREAS, the ideal person to lead Mississippi College for the
46 last 16 years, Dr. Royce's high standards of competence, strenuous
47 work ethic, and ardent commitment to quality methods and
48 operations became an example that others strive to emulate and
49 greatly improved Mississippi College; and

50 WHEREAS, President Lee Royce and his wife, Rhoda, are beloved
51 by Mississippi College faculty, staff, students, alumni, the
52 Clinton community and other friends of the university, and the
53 Royces will be sorely missed during their retirement years in
54 Northern Virginia; and

55 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
56 and honor the steadfast devotion to the betterment of Mississippi
57 College and honor the zealous vow of impeccable leadership that
58 Dr. Lee Gardner Royce bestowed upon the students, faculty,
59 administration and alumni as the President of Mississippi College:

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
61 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
62 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the distinguished career and
63 meritorious leadership and service of Dr. Lee Gardner Royce upon
64 the occasion of his retirement as the President of Mississippi
65 College and extend sincere wishes for continued success and joy in
66 the lighter days ahead.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
68 furnished to Dr. Lee Gardner Royce and to the members of the
69 Capitol Press Corps.

