

By: Representative Huddleston (15th)

To: Rules

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING PAT  
2 ROBERTSON UPON HER RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC  
3 EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, the Executive Director of the Public Employees'  
5 Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS), Pat Robertson, is  
6 retiring after almost 40 years of illustrious service and  
7 dedication to the members, retirees and employers of PERS and  
8 to the people of the State of Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, after graduating from Mississippi State University  
10 in 1975 with a degree in accounting, Pat Robertson initially took  
11 a job in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, but quickly moved back to  
12 Mississippi, where she began working as an accountant with the  
13 Governor's Office of Federal, State and Local Programs; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1980, Pat became the very first investment  
15 accountant at PERS, and when she took the job, she knew very  
16 little about public pension plans, but after over 35 years with  
17 the agency, she has learned every detail and developed a passion



18 for helping provide retirement security to Mississippi's public  
19 employees; and

20 WHEREAS, after working for a decade as an investment  
21 accountant, where she typed trade tickets, manually kept the books  
22 and sent trades to the bank to be settled, she was promoted to  
23 director of finance and later to deputy director of administrative  
24 services; and

25 WHEREAS, once she moved from accounting to the administrative  
26 side of the agency, Pat decided to make PERS her career because  
27 she "loved the back office work" and "making sure things were  
28 running right" as well as her growing involvement in the pension  
29 community on the national level; and

30 WHEREAS, during her time as deputy, one of Pat's proudest  
31 moments and biggest accomplishments was when she led the  
32 renovation of the PERS building in 2004 at a cost that was within  
33 the state budget and secured the building of a parking garage, and  
34 because of her attention to detail and guidance, to this day, the  
35 building still looks and feels new; and

36 WHEREAS, in November 2005, Pat Robertson became the first  
37 female Executive Director of PERS, and during her tenure, she  
38 focused on representing PERS nationally (including her two terms  
39 as president of the National Association of State Retirement  
40 Administrators, serving on the Governmental Finance Officers'  
41 Association Executive Board, and serving on various committees  
42 with the National Council on Teacher Retirement), as well as



43 building professional opportunities for PERS' 160 employees  
44 through the application of career ladders and the implementation  
45 of training opportunities; and

46 WHEREAS, as the Executive Director of PERS, Pat witnessed  
47 many changes to PERS including the increase of agency assets from  
48 \$1 billion (1980) to over \$28 billion (December 2017), and the  
49 growth of PERS membership from 143,000 (1980) to nearly 400,000  
50 today; and

51 WHEREAS, Pat Robertson continuously strived for improvement,  
52 never accepted mediocrity, always questioned why, and led the  
53 agency with honesty and integrity while keeping in mind her role  
54 as a public servant, a representative of Mississippi, and a leader  
55 to her staff, and under her leadership and dedication to the  
56 agency, PERS garnered national recognition and benefitted  
57 exponentially while building upon its already credible and  
58 efficient reputation; and

59 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
60 and commend the tireless devotion to the betterment of Mississippi  
61 and honor the ardent vow to impeccable public service that Pat  
62 Robertson bestowed to the members, retirees and employers of PERS  
63 and to the people of the State of Mississippi as the Executive  
64 Director of PERS:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
66 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
67 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Pat Robertson



68 upon her retirement as Executive Director of the Public Employees'  
69 Retirement System of Mississippi and extend sincere wishes for  
70 rest and relaxation in her lighter days ahead.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
72 furnished to Pat Robertson and to the members of the Capitol Press  
73 Corps.

