

By: Representatives Sykes, Aguirre, Anderson, Arnold, Bailey, Bain, Baker, Banks, Baria, Barnett, Barton, Beckett, Bell (21st), Bell (65th), Bennett, Blackmon, Bounds, Boyd, Brown, Burnett, Busby, Byrd, Calhoun, Carpenter, Chism, Clark, Clarke, Cockerham, Corley, Crawford, Criswell, Currie, DeLano, Denny, Denton, Dixon, Dortch, Eubanks, Eure, Evans (45th), Evans (91st), Faulkner, Ford, Foster, Gibbs (36th), Gibbs (72nd), Gipson, Guice, Gunn, Hale, Haney, Henley, Hines, Holland, Holloway, Hood, Hopkins, Horan, Horne, Huddleston (15th), Hudson, Hughes, Jackson, Johnson (87th), Johnson (94th), Karriem, Kinkade, Ladner, Lamar, Mangold, Massengill, McGee, McLeod, McNeal, Mettetal, Mickens, Middleton, Miles, Mims, Morgan, Myers, Oliver, Paden, Patterson, Perkins, Pigott, Powell, Read, Reynolds, Roberson, Rogers (14th), Rogers (61st), Rushing, Sanford, Scoggin, Scott, Shanks, Shirley, Smith, Snowden, Staples, Steverson, Straughter, Sullivan, Taylor, Thomas, Touchstone, Tullos, Turner, Walker, Watson, Weathersby, White, Wilkes, Williams-Barnes, Willis, Wilson, Wooten, Young, Zuber

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 103

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LASTING LEGACY OF
 2 RETIRING UNITED STATES SENATOR WILLIAM THAD COCHRAN.

3 WHEREAS, April 1, 2018, will truly be the end of an era in
 4 Mississippi politics when longtime United States Senator and
 5 Northeast Mississippi native William Thad Cochran will step down
 6 from his seat after 46 years representing the Magnolia State in
 7 Washington, D.C.; and

8 WHEREAS, Mississippians owe Senator Cochran a debt of
 9 gratitude for his service over the last several decades, for
 10 always seeking to make Mississippi a better place for all its
 11 residents, and we thank Senator Cochran and wish him a long and
 12 well-deserved retirement; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Cochran was first elected to the Senate in
 14 1978, becoming the first Republican in more than 100 years to win



15 a statewide election in Mississippi, and he retires as the 10th
16 longest-serving Senator in United States history; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Cochran was reelected in 2014 to a seventh
18 six-year term that began in January 2015 as Chairman of the
19 powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, a post he had held
20 briefly in the mid-2000s and was scheduled to continue through
21 2018; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Cochran previously served in the United
23 States House of Representatives from 1973-1978 before winning an
24 election to replace longtime Senator James Eastland, who retired;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Cochran has a quiet, stately demeanor and is known
27 for playing piano to relax in his office, and for many years he
28 drew accolades in Washington, D.C., for working across the aisle
29 to get difficult measures passed, and back home for "bringing home
30 the bacon" to Mississippi, due to his successful funding of
31 numerous projects, including federal programs and aid for farmers,
32 buildings and programs at universities, and funding for local
33 governments and federal contracts at Pascagoula's shipyard and
34 military installations; and

35 WHEREAS, during four decades in Washington, Senator Cochran
36 has tended to pay attention to his interests in Mississippi and to
37 leave national politics to others; and, in Mississippi and other
38 Gulf states, part of Senator Cochran's strong legacy is his
39 response during Hurricane Katrina; and



40 WHEREAS, as Chairman of Appropriations when Hurricane Katrina
41 hit in 2005, he used his years of consensus building and working
42 across the aisle to convince a reluctant Congress to provide \$29
43 billion in immediate Katrina relief, including an unprecedented \$5
44 billion in discretionary HUD Community Development Block Grant
45 Disaster Recovery Program funds for Mississippi, allowing the
46 state to provide homeowner grants for rebuilding, and his
47 legislative work helped prevent financial and social ruin in
48 Mississippi and Louisiana after the hurricane's destruction; and

49 WHEREAS, comments from elected officials and community
50 leaders throughout the country showcased the true impact he had on
51 the great State of Mississippi and the United States of America;
52 and

53 WHEREAS, a true statesman, quiet, thoughtful, extremely
54 intelligent, and possessed of that rare ability to disagree
55 agreeably, Thad Cochran broke the mold of loud, bellicose Southern
56 demagogues and effectively conducted his 46 years of service for
57 the people of Mississippi on Capitol Hill as what *Time Magazine*
58 cogently called in 2006 "the quiet persuader"; and

59 WHEREAS, Senator Cochran was a workhorse, keeping up a
60 schedule that colleagues decades later would not attempt, with a
61 schedule broken up into 15- to 30-minute increments, depending on
62 the time of the year, the Senator prioritized meeting personally
63 with everyone who requested a meeting; and



64 WHEREAS, he believed if someone traveled to Washington, D.C.,
65 from Hernando or Pascagoula, Clarksdale or Meridian, it might be
66 their only trip and they should be able to talk to their elected
67 representatives, and while he might be scheduled to meet with
68 cabinet secretaries or foreign leaders, Senator Cochran has been
69 more interested in hearing from families, farmers, educators and
70 local officials on issues that affect them, issues as varied as
71 juvenile diabetes to roads and bridges that are vital for their
72 communities; and

73 WHEREAS, Senator Thad Cochran leaves a lasting legacy not
74 only in his home region of North Mississippi, but throughout the
75 entire state, and his passion for helping build community spirit
76 throughout this state was unlike any other and he will truly be
77 missed; and

78 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend our
79 best and brightest representatives of the people of this state, of
80 whom Senator Cochran is as fine as this state has ever had:

81 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
82 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
83 THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize the lasting legacy of United
84 States Senator William Thad Cochran on the occasion of his
85 retirement, and extend to Senator Cochran and his family continued
86 success and happiness in his retirement.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
88 furnished to United States Senator Thad Cochran, the President of



89 the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the
90 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate and the Governor
91 of the State of Mississippi, and to the members of the Capitol
92 Press Corps.

