

By: Representative McGee

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ESTEEMED AND LAUDABLE LEGISLATIVE  
2 CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE MOST HONORABLE AND DISTINGUISHED  
3 GENTLEMAN FROM FORREST, FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND NOW HONORABLE  
4 MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HATTIESBURG, TOBY BARKER.

5 WHEREAS, the Honorable and Distinguished Junior Gentleman  
6 from Forrest, Toby Barker officially resigned from the Mississippi  
7 House of Representatives on Friday, June 30, 2017, to assume the  
8 reigns of municipal leadership as Mayor of the City of  
9 Hattiesburg, after tirelessly working on behalf of the people of  
10 Mississippi and House District 102, which includes portions of  
11 Forrest and Lamar Counties, for 10 years from the historical floor  
12 of the majestically ethereal and hallowed House Chamber,  
13 effectively signaling official changing of the guard in the post  
14 held by a visionary leader, friend and adept lawmaker; and

15 WHEREAS, a native of Meridian, who was born on December 31,  
16 1981, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Bob Barker, Jr., and grandson  
17 of the late Dr. and Mrs. Bob Barker, Sr., and the late Mr. and  
18 Mrs. E.D. (Red) McKinney, Toby relocated to Hattiesburg in 2000 to  
19 attend the University of Southern Mississippi where he earned a



bachelor of arts in communication and master of science in  
economic development, respectively in 2004 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, upon assuming his seat as a member of the  
Mississippi House of Representatives from District 102, at the age  
of 25, to become the youngest state legislator at the time and  
first millennial elected in Mississippi, in 2007, former  
Representative and now Mayor Barker became the distinguished  
Gentleman from Forrest, whose passion, genuine desire and learned  
disposition to research, vet and expound upon issues to further  
the progress of this great Magnolia State, and whose exceptional  
preparation and unparalleled orations enabled him to swiftly  
navigate the ranks of leadership of the Mississippi House of  
Representatives; and

WHEREAS, gaining stature as a prominent, yet formidable  
politician, the Junior Gentleman from Forrest's abilities and  
talent were immediately recognized by his colleagues, and when  
combined with his strong work ethic, he quickly rose from freshman  
lawmaker to Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Poverty at  
the onset of his first legislative term in 2008, to an influential  
purveyor of equity with his appointment as Vice Chairman of the  
Public Health and Human Services Committee during his second term  
in 2012, and culminating in his appointment to the chairmanship  
position of the House Performance Based Budgeting Committee in  
2016, which he zealously led with much deference and bipartisan  
participation; and



45 WHEREAS, it was during the Mayor's second legislative term  
46 and service as Vice Chairman of the Public Health and Human  
47 Services Committee that his aspiration to sharpen his acuity in  
48 the areas of the law for which he shared the reigns of guiding  
49 legislation compelled him to enroll in Brown University, where his  
50 aspirations to become well-versed in healthcare came to complete  
51 fruition in 2015, when he earned a master of healthcare  
52 leadership; and

53 WHEREAS, over the course of his storied legislative career,  
54 Mayor Barker's diligence and devotion to the office to which he  
55 was elected were fueled by a desire to better enhance the quality  
56 of life for the entire citizenry of the Hospitality State, as he  
57 endeavored with feverish propensity through his vocal  
58 participation on the several committees to which he was assigned,  
59 including: Apportionment and Elections; Appropriations;  
60 Education; Medicaid; Public Health and Human Services; Public  
61 Property; Select Committee on Poverty; Technology; Transportation;  
62 and Universities and Colleges; and

63 WHEREAS, in addition to making great legislative strides that  
64 fostered a statewide impact through such efforts as the Early  
65 Learning Collaborative Act of 2013, to negotiating the 2016 foster  
66 care reform bill that moved foster care from the Department of  
67 Human Services to the newly created Department of Child Protection  
68 Services while securing the \$34 million in funding to comply with  
69 the state's federal court order and handling the two bills that



70 created the Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship for Students  
71 with Dyslexia Program and Mississippi Dyslexia Therapy Scholarship  
72 in 2012, Toby's commitment to Hattiesburg remained at the  
73 forefront of his agenda, as evidenced by his ability to  
74 successfully secure: state resources to provide sidewalks and  
75 safe pathways for Hattiesburg Public School students around  
76 Woodley Elementary, Rowan Elementary, Hawkins Elementary and  
77 Hattiesburg High; ongoing funding in the K-12 budget for  
78 technology upgrades at N.R. Burger Middle School and increased  
79 state funding for DuBard School and the Children's Center for  
80 Communication and Development at the University of Southern  
81 Mississippi; a capital investment for the Hattiesburg Zoo and the  
82 Historic Eureka School Museum; the sale of the former Elam Arms  
83 residence hall and parking lot to spur the first commercial  
84 development for Midtown Hattiesburg; and an additional \$1.3  
85 million in state appropriations for the University of Southern  
86 Mississippi's insurance deductible after the 2013 tornado; and

87 WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives will  
88 cherish the bond and common goals for the betterment of this great  
89 state shared with Mayor Barker during his time as State  
90 Representative for House District 102, and that his impeccable  
91 service was consummated to the Mississippi Legislature, his wife  
92 Kate, daughter Audra, expected son, the constituents of District  
93 102 and the citizens of Hattiesburg; and



94 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
95 honor the indelible legacy of remarkable service of our former  
96 colleague and friend, Mayor Toby Barker, who represented his  
97 district, this body and the people of this state with honor and  
98 dignity for the entirety of his legislative career:

99 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
100 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
101 commend the esteemed and laudable legislative career and public  
102 service of the most Honorable and Distinguished Junior Gentleman  
103 from Forrest, former Representative and now Honorable Mayor of the  
104 City of Hattiesburg, Toby Barker, and express fondest respect and  
105 best wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors.

106 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
107 furnished to the Honorable Mayor of the City of Hattiesburg Toby  
108 Barker and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

