

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 RESOLUTION NO. 83

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LASTING LEGACY OF RETIRING  
 2 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 to 1978 before winning  
24 an election to replace longtime Senator James Eastland, who  
25 retired; 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 possessing 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 the House of Representatives to  
79 commend our best and brightest representatives of the people of  
80 this state, of whom Senator Cochran is as fine as this state has  
81 ever had:

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



88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
89 furnished to United States Senator Thad Cochran, the President of  
90 the United States, the Vice President of the United States, the  
91 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate, the Governor of  
92 the State of Mississippi and to the members of the Capitol Press  
93 Corps.

