

By: Representative Gunn

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 89

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, SERVICE AND LEGACY OF DR.  
2 MILTON DUANE "BUD" MATTHEWS AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS  
3 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our  
5 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far  
6 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at  
7 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:  
8 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which  
9 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and  
10 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of  
11 dearly beloved, Dr. Milton Duane "Bud" Matthews, to rest  
12 eternally, as he has made life's final transition from earthly  
13 travailing to heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to  
14 his family and friends; and

15 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi lost a wonderful friend and  
16 esteemed public servant with the passing of Dr. Matthews, on  
17 Friday, March 16, 2018, whose career as an astute educational  
18 professional and consultant on the local and statewide level



19 spanned 56 years, and who now enjoys the eternal peace described  
20 in Luke 2:29, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in  
21 peace, according to your word"; and

22 WHEREAS, from the humble beginnings of his birth on April 3,  
23 1938, to the late Mr. Hugh W. and Mrs. Pauline Germany Matthews in  
24 Union, Mississippi, which straddles the county lines of Neshoba  
25 and Newton Counties, Dr. Matthews, upon completing his formal  
26 education, masterfully matriculated through the realms of  
27 postsecondary academia with degrees from East Central Community  
28 College, the University of Southern Mississippi, which included  
29 his PhD, and Mississippi College, shaping himself into a man of  
30 valor and integrity; and

31 WHEREAS, Dr. Matthews commenced his career in education in  
32 Neshoba County in 1960 with a stellar showing of commitment to the  
33 academic success of his students, championing the advancement of  
34 the Neshoba County's public educational system which positioned  
35 him to become the district's new Title I, ESEA Coordinator in  
36 1968, serving as the precursor to easily transition him to  
37 statewide service as a Title I officer with the Mississippi  
38 Department of Education in 1971; and

39 WHEREAS, Dr. Matthews' 36-year tenure with the Mississippi  
40 Department of Education culminated with his appointment, by the  
41 State Board of Education, as Director of the Office of  
42 Compensatory Education, which entailed the responsibility of  
43 overseeing annual budgets exceeding \$125 million before passing on



44 the mantle of service to his successor upon his retirement in  
45 1996; and

46 WHEREAS, even in retirement, Dr. Matthews' devotion to the  
47 quality of education provided to the state's most valuable  
48 resource, its children, remained unwavering and he recommitted  
49 himself to continued services as an educational consultant for an  
50 additional 20 years, before officially tendering his retirement in  
51 2016 at the age of 78 and openly confessing to having "failed  
52 retirement"; and

53 WHEREAS, cognizant of the words recorded in II Thessalonians  
54 3:10 "that if any would not work, neither should he eat," Dr.  
55 Matthews was a diligent worker who, in addition to building a  
56 formidable career in education, offered 17 years of service to the  
57 handicapped in the Radio Reading Service, dressed as Santa who  
58 would read to children at area schools and libraries, and also  
59 served as a volunteer with the International Ballet and the  
60 Mississippi Commission for International Cultural Exchange  
61 exhibits, including: Splendors of Versailles, Palaces of St.  
62 Petersburg, Baroque Dresden and The Majesty of Spain; and

63 WHEREAS, well traveled, both domestically and abroad, having  
64 visited every continent, save one, Dr. Matthews never met a  
65 stranger, an innate trait of compassion that proved rewarding as  
66 it bestowed upon him the gift of establishing genuine, lifelong  
67 friendships shared over exceptional cuisine, thought-provoking



68 conversation, cultural and artistic enlightenment, and showered  
69 with an ever-timely word of encouragement; and

70 WHEREAS, a God-fearing Christian before all other roles he  
71 assumed, Dr. Matthews possessed an ambitious spirit akin to that  
72 of King David, he was a man after God's own heart, who  
73 demonstrated a great faith and commitment to Jesus Christ, his  
74 family and his church, Old Towne Community Church, a diligent  
75 service that confirms the recording of Roman 14:8, "If we live, we  
76 live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether  
77 we live or die, we belong to the Lord"; and

78 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite  
79 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now  
80 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,  
81 which include his parents and brother-in-law Marcus Gordon, the  
82 legacy of Dr. Matthews' indelible imprint upon our lives will  
83 continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his beloved  
84 survivors: his sister, Polly Gordon; niece, Teresa Gordon Parker;  
85 nephews, Craig Gordon, Brian Gordon and Darin Gordon; great  
86 nieces, Lana Elizabeth and Lara Kelle Parker; and a host of  
87 friends and colleagues; and

88 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the  
89 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their  
90 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Dr.  
91 Matthews fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence  
92 to the commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good



93 fight, finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour  
94 of his departure was at hand"; and

95 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
96 commend the life and service of such a genuine and selfless  
97 individual as Dr. Matthews, whose light illuminated the path of  
98 hope for all he encountered along this earthly sojourn:

99 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
100 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
101 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Milton  
102 Duane "Bud" Matthews and express sincere and deepest sympathy to  
103 his family and friends upon his passing.

104 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
105 furnished to the family of Dr. Milton Duane "Bud" Matthews and to  
106 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

