

By: Senator(s) Gollott

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE TO THE
2 BEREAVED FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF FORMER BILOXI MAYOR AND MISSISSIPPI
3 GULF COAST CIVIC LEADER A.J. HOLLOWAY, JR., AND COMMENDING HIS
4 LEGACY.

5 Whereas, we join the citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast
6 in paying tribute to the memory of former Biloxi Mayor and
7 Mississippi Gulf Coast Civic Leader A.J. Holloway, Jr., (79) who
8 passed away on June 5, 2018; and

9 Whereas, A.J. Holloway oversaw an unprecedented number of
10 quality-of-life improvements during his unprecedented 22 years as
11 Biloxi's Mayor. He was elected to the City Council in 1989 and
12 elected Mayor in 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013, before
13 retiring in 2015; and

14 Whereas, Holloway became Mayor a year after casino gaming was
15 legalized. The industry re-energized the local economy, creating
16 15,000 jobs, generating \$6 Billion Dollars in development,
17 boosting the number of annual visitors to the community from one
18 million a year to between eight and ten million a year, and
19 accounting for billions in new revenue; and



20 Whereas, Mayor Holloway tripled the size of the Biloxi Police
21 and Fire Departments. He called them the "best-trained,
22 best-equipped and best-paid police and fire departments you'll
23 find." He built a \$10 Million Dollar Lopez-Quave Public Safety
24 Center and new fire stations in East Biloxi, North Biloxi and
25 Eagle Point; abolished fees for youth sports leagues and oversaw
26 the construction of the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, the
27 renovation and expansion of the Biloxi Community Center, and the
28 construction of an 80-acre sports complex in North Biloxi that
29 would later bear his name; and

30 Whereas, during Holloway's tenure, four new public schools
31 were built, including a state-of-the-art high school, an \$80
32 Million Dollar investment in public education; tens of millions
33 were invested in new municipal facilities such as police and fire
34 stations, libraries, community centers, parks, playgrounds and
35 ball fields; new roads were built and decade-old roads were
36 rebuilt; and residents throughout the city saw their property tax
37 rate drop by 50 percent; and

38 Whereas, the Mayor also tapped into state and federal revenue
39 for major projects. He and the late Delmar Robinson, whom
40 Holloway had appointed years earlier as Chairman of the Biloxi
41 Housing Authority, worked with Senator Trent Lott, then Senate
42 Majority Leader, to establish the \$35 Million Dollar Hope VI
43 Affordable Housing Initiative in East Biloxi. The townhome



44 developments replaced barracks-style housing that had been
45 constructed generations earlier; and

46 Whereas, the mayor successfully lobbied then-Governor Kirk
47 Fordice to have the state transform the derelict Howard Memorial
48 Hospital on Back Bay into the Department of Marine Resources and
49 other state agencies. He also successfully lobbied the state for
50 assistance on major road projects, such as the widening of
51 Caillavet Street, which was part of a massive streets improvement
52 project that saw the widening of Cedar Lake Road and Popp's Ferry
53 Road, and the construction of Back Bay Boulevard; and

54 Whereas, as Biloxi entered the 21st Century, the City was
55 enjoying the most prosperous time in its 300-year history until
56 August 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural
57 disaster to ever strike the United States, decimated Biloxi and
58 surrounding communities. Katrina claimed 6,000 of 25,000 homes
59 and businesses in Biloxi, and more than 15,000 were left without
60 jobs in the gaming industry alone. Holloway's staunchly
61 conservative nature and small-business upbringing were steadfast
62 before and after the storm. He marshaled city departments, used
63 state and federal aid and went about the business of clearing the
64 city of debris in the days after the storm and set about a
65 long-term recovery program. Six months after the storm, Holloway
66 announced the "Reviving the Renaissance" initiative, prompting
67 nearly 200 residents to step forward to help craft a blueprint to



68 guide the city's rebuilding efforts in a way that recaptures the
69 successes of the past; and

70 Whereas, Holloway said in 2004 and again in 2007: "Future
71 generations are going to look back on this chapter in our history
72 as a time when we made the right decisions, when we cherished and
73 protected our culture, and we did things to improve and enhance
74 our quality of life. They're going to see this as an historic
75 time. We were on the right track before this storm, and we're
76 going to stay on the right track"; and

77 Whereas, the challenges of a post-Katrina Biloxi may define
78 Holloway's public service career, which began with the Biloxi
79 Public Schools, where he served as Business Manager for six years.
80 He also served at the Mississippi State Tax Commission for 12
81 years and attained the post of Senior Revenue Agent. He was later
82 elected to the Biloxi City Council serving one term before being
83 elected Mayor of Biloxi in 1993. Holloway was a high school
84 football hero, a fierce competitor on the field, and was later
85 said to have thrown a punch that led to the longtime cancellation
86 of the Biloxi-Gulfport football rivalry. Holloway parlayed his
87 high school year into a scholarship at the University of
88 Mississippi, where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. At
89 the same time, he excelled in athletics, having played in two
90 Sugar Bowls and a Cotton Bowl while at Ole Miss and on the 1960
91 Rebels National Championship Football Team. Holloway brought that
92 winning spirit to City Hall as Councilman and later as Mayor,



93 promising fiscally conservative leadership and responsible
94 government; and

95 Whereas, Holloway was preceded in death by his parents,
96 Andrew Joseph Holloway, Sr., and Iris Letort Holloway. He is
97 survived by his wife of 56 years, Macklyn Holloway; his children,
98 Heather Holloway (John Radicia) and Jeff Holloway; his
99 grandchildren: Destin Holloway, Jordan Holloway, Hannah Radicia
100 and Abigail Radicia; his sister, Dale Steckler; and brothers,
101 Donnie Holloway and Kenny Holloway; and

102 Whereas, we are saddened by this loss, and we pay tribute and
103 cherish fondly the memory of this most public-spirited citizen of
104 the Mississippi Gulf Coast, whose enormous civic energy will be
105 missed:

106 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
107 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the condolences of the
108 Senate to the bereaved family and friends of former Biloxi Mayor
109 and Mississippi Gulf Coast Civic Leader A.J. Holloway, Jr., and
110 commend his legacy.

111 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
112 to the surviving family of Mayor Holloway, forwarded to Biloxi
113 Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and the Biloxi City Council, and made
114 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

