

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ESTEEMED CAREER AND PUBLIC
2 SERVICE OF MRS. DIANE TYNER ASHLEY RENDERED TO THE CITIZENS OF
3 MISSISSIPPI AS ASSISTANT CLERK OF THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF
4 REPRESENTATIVES, AND CONGRATULATING HER UPON THE OCCASION OF HER
5 RETIREMENT.

6 WHEREAS, after nearly 31 years of dedicated and zealous
7 service to the Mississippi House of Representatives and the entire
8 constituency of the 122 elected members which comprise the House's
9 body, Mrs. Diane Tyner Ashley will retire from public service as
10 Assistant Clerk on February 5, 2019, where she has become a
11 synonymous fixture associated with the legislative activity on the
12 West Wing of the Mississippi State Capitol's third floor, after
13 having first begun her prestigious career as a committee assistant
14 on May 23, 1988; and

15 WHEREAS, a native of Mississippi's little Hollywood, commonly
16 referred to as the "City of Lights," but more formally known as
17 Canton, Mississippi, born to Mr. Weldon and Mrs. Dorothy Tyner,
18 Diane and her siblings, Mitch and Vicki, were instilled with the
19 core principals that hard work and living a life of respect and



20 integrity, grounded in faith and a superior educational foundation
21 were the formula for a successful life; and

22 WHEREAS, equipped with the essential life tools imparted by
23 her parents, Diane, after graduating from Canton Academy,
24 furthered her collegiate matriculation at the University of
25 Southern Mississippi, where she attained both her bachelor's and
26 master's degrees; and

27 WHEREAS, upon her arrival at the Mississippi State Capitol in
28 1988, Diane initially served the House as a committee assistant to
29 former Representatives Dick Livingston, Terry Brown, Isaiah
30 Fredericks, Charles L. Young Sr. and Tyrone Ellis for the
31 committees on Constitution, Public Property (formerly Public
32 Buildings and Grounds), Public Utilities, Municipalities, and
33 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (formerly Game and Fish); and

34 WHEREAS, a stellar employee and a proven invaluable asset to
35 the House's systems of operation and functionality, Diane's
36 exceptional performance in her committee assistant capacity
37 garnered her much admiration and respect of her chairmen, fellow
38 colleagues as well as the House Leadership, and afforded her the
39 opportunity to be meritoriously promoted to the Clerk's office as
40 Assistant Clerk in 1995, and her consistency in performance has
41 never waived from the date of her initial hire until her
42 decision to conclude her prestigious legislative career; and

43 WHEREAS, from her post on the House dais, overlooking the
44 beautifully adorned chamber, Diane has witnessed the evolution of



45 state history unfold in the shape of policy formulated by
46 legislators, future governors, other statewide elected officials,
47 congressmen and those who have transitioned to legislative careers
48 to municipal leadership and judiciary membership; and

49 WHEREAS, equally committed to the art of literary writing as
50 she is to the citizens of this state, Diane, who witnessed John
51 Grisham pen his first novel while sitting in the House Chamber,
52 and being inspired to published her first literary work in 2008,
53 in the form of a novella contained in the collected entitled "A
54 Connecticut Christmas," which made the CBA and ECPA best sellers'
55 list in addition to being a finalist in the American Christian
56 Fiction Writers (ACFW) Book of the Year contest in 2009; and

57 WHEREAS, having struck a chord of success in her newfound
58 niche for fiction writing, Diane and her friend, mentor and
59 co-writer, Aaron McCarver, completed six historic novels for
60 Barbour Publishing's Heartsong Presents, and penned the trilogy
61 "Song of the River" before her second Christmas novella hit the
62 best sellers' list in 2011 and positioned her to win the 2012 ACFW
63 Carol Award; and

64 WHEREAS, not to have a life with complete dimension and total
65 fulfillment, Diane discovered an ever abounding love when she met
66 her soul mate, Gene Ashley, in 1999, and solidified that bond when
67 they exchanged nuptials in 2002, in what would become the most
68 enlightening years of her life, in a romance of 13 years that



69 further expounded upon the tenets of love, generosity and
70 selflessness shared between the two; and

71 WHEREAS, in the wake and emotional aftermath of Gene's
72 unexpected death in November 2012, Diane had to rediscover her
73 literary voice, and with a lot of prayer, divine guidance from God
74 and emotional and spiritual support from family and friends, she
75 stepped out on faith, sold her central Mississippi home and
76 relocated to the beautiful and serene Mississippi Gulf Coast in
77 2014, where she recovered and once again immersed herself in her
78 writing, which proved to be both cathartic and challenging; and

79 WHEREAS, much to the credit of Diane's indomitable spirit,
80 adversity could not impede her ability to remain resilient in the
81 performance of fulfilling her duties and responsibilities to the
82 House of Representatives; and

83 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
84 acknowledge outstanding Mississippians such as Diane Tyner Ashley,
85 one we are proud to call our own, whose daily presence in the
86 halls of the Capitol will be sorely missed but whose legacy of
87 selflessness, fairness, hard work, professionalism and overall
88 commitment to improving the individual lives of others and her
89 community and state, has made an indelible mark on the Mississippi
90 Legislature and all those who have been privileged to know and
91 work with her:

92 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
93 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby



94 commend the esteemed career and public service that Diane Tyner
95 Ashley rendered to the citizens of Mississippi as Assistant Clerk
96 of the House of Representatives, congratulate her upon the
97 occasion of her retirement from public service and extend warmest
98 wishes for continued success in all of her future endeavors.

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
100 furnished to Mrs. Diane Tyner Ashley and to the members of the
101 Capitol Press Corps.

