

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Kirby, Barnett, Blackmon, Blackwell, Blount, Carmichael, Caughman, Clarke, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, Massey, McMahan, Parker, Seymour, Witherspoon

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

1 A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND AND RECOGNIZE DISTRICT 37 STATE
2 SENATOR BOB M. DEARING FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE
3 MISSISSIPPI SENATE.

4 WHEREAS, District 37 State Senator Bob M. Dearing has
5 announced that he will not be seeking reelection. He has
6 represented Senate District 37, which includes portions of Adams,
7 Amite, Franklin and Pike Counties, for 36 years. In Bob Dearing,
8 the citizens of District 37 have had effective representation from
9 a dedicated public servant with business experience; and

10 WHEREAS, first elected to office in 1979, Senator Dearing
11 served in the Mississippi Senate as a Democrat for eight terms,
12 was defeated in 2011 and four years later recaptured the seat he
13 once held. Proud of his accomplishments in the Legislature, Bob
14 Dearing said he has always enjoyed working in the Senate and will
15 miss it when he finishes this year; and

16 WHEREAS, Bob's education includes Delta State University,
17 Bachelor of Science Degree in Education 1957; University of
18 Southern Mississippi, ME 1965; and Honorary Doctorate in Public



19 Service 2012. His occupation is an AFLAC Insurance Agent, former
20 schoolteacher and restaurant operator; and

21 WHEREAS, at the beginning of the 2015 Regular Session, Bob
22 served on the following committees: Public Property, Vice-Chair;
23 Appropriations; Constitution; Energy; Highways and Transportation;
24 Insurance; Ports and Marine Resources; and Public Health and
25 Welfare; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Dearing's tenure in the Legislature made him
27 an expert in many areas of Mississippi government and he was
28 particularly knowledgeable in the details of agency and university
29 budgets. While serving as Chairman of the Fees, Salaries and
30 Administration Committee, Senator Dearing conducted a two-year
31 study of the salary level compensation of every state agency
32 director and staff and the salaries of county and local officials
33 which are set by statute, comparing salary levels to surrounding
34 states in order to update and make public officials' compensation
35 reasonable and competitive. Senator Dearing's key legislative
36 interests have included matters relating to the administration of
37 public schools, Medicaid, Mental Health and Human Services, and he
38 was a longtime supporter of the historic Natchez Charity Hospital.
39 In his last term in office, he took a particular interest in
40 animal rights and sponsored a dog-fighting bill that Governor Phil
41 Bryant signed into law; and

42 WHEREAS, Senator Dearing is a member of the Natchez Festival
43 of Music, Board Member; Natchez-Adams County Humane Society, Board



44 Member; Mississippi-Louisiana Charter National Football Foundation
45 and Coaches Hall of Fame; Ducks Unlimited and the National Rifle
46 Association. Senator Dearing said he plans to also help campaign
47 for his daughter, Daye Dearing, who is running for Adams County
48 Circuit Clerk this year; and

49 WHEREAS, Senator Dearing is married to the former Shelley
50 Paige Ditzler and they have two other children, Bo and Paige. He
51 is of the Presbyterian faith. Senator Dearing is an avid
52 outdoorsman and was an active supporter of the Delta State
53 University sports teams; and

54 WHEREAS, Senator Dearing's service has been marked by his
55 commitment to success and recognized leadership, sound judgment,
56 civility, courtesy and fairness. He has set the highest standard
57 in all of his many roles: husband, father, businessman,
58 statesman, community leader, leader in the Mississippi Senate, and
59 as a true friend. Bob's service honored both the Mississippi
60 Senate and this great state that he loved and served:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
62 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and recognize District 37
63 State Senator Bob M. Dearing for his distinguished service in the
64 Mississippi Senate.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
66 Senator Bob Dearing and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

