

By: Representative Currie

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MR. WILLIE  
2 TOWNSEND UPON EARNING HIS HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DIPLOMA.

3 WHEREAS, sometimes life deals us a hand that often leads to  
4 reactionary and regrettable decisions, but the best thing about  
5 life is that, on occasion, it gives us an opportunity to revisit  
6 those very decisions and provide a chance of redemption; and

7 WHEREAS, for 58-year-old Capitol Facilities' maintenance  
8 superintendent, Willie Townsend, that redemption came in the form  
9 of returning to school to complete his high school education 40  
10 years after having made the decision at the age of 18 to drop out  
11 of school during his senior year at Loyd Star Attendance Center;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, for Mr. Townsend, the dream of becoming a high  
14 school graduate recently became a reality after two years of hard  
15 work at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, which  
16 culminated in the receipt of his High School Equivalency Diploma,  
17 as an early graduate from the college's program; and



18           WHEREAS, having witnessed each of his six brothers and one  
19 sister graduate from high school, Mr. Townsend's frustration  
20 abounded, especially when he reflected upon his impatience to  
21 graduate over one credit, and he was determined to remedy that  
22 frustration with the only antidote possible, to go back to school;  
23 and

24           WHEREAS, navigating the work-school balance after working at  
25 a Brookhaven lumberyard for nearly 40 years, and raising a family  
26 with a wife and three children, all of whom attended and graduated  
27 from Loyd Star, and two of whom endeavored in further collegiate  
28 studies, Mr. Townsend immersed himself in his adult literacy  
29 studies, applying the same level of discipline he required of his  
30 children for good grades and a nonnegotiable graduation  
31 requirement to himself, twice a week, every week for two years;  
32 and

33           WHEREAS, driven by a rekindled desire to succeed, Mr.  
34 Townsend persevered to accomplish his lifelong dream of holding  
35 his very own high school diploma or its equivalent, even when  
36 questioned by family and friends who failed to comprehend his need  
37 to do so; and

38           WHEREAS, not only did the determined Mr. Townsend prove his  
39 doubters wrong, he did so in a truly exceptional fashion, by  
40 finishing the program ahead of course and joining 17 other equally  
41 zealous peers to take the stage at Co-Lin for an early  
42 commencement exercise; and



43           WHEREAS, Mr. Townsend's success has ignited a passion for  
44 even more learning and credentialing, as he has avowed to return  
45 to Co-Lin to enroll in a welding course to earn his certification,  
46 which he plans to put into use as a side job after he retires,  
47 since he can not imagine himself sitting at home and not working;  
48 and

49           WHEREAS, the success stories, likened to that of Mr.  
50 Townsend, are the reasons our state community colleges rank among  
51 the best in the nation, because of their efforts to promote adult  
52 education and workforce training to ensure the longevity of  
53 programs to produce and educate a highly-skilled workforce; and

54           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
55 recognize the diligence and determination of our citizens to seek  
56 better educational and employment outcomes for themselves and  
57 their families, as evidenced in the accomplishments of Mr. Willie  
58 Townsend:

59           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
61 commend and congratulate Mr. Willie Townsend upon earning his High  
62 School Equivalency Diploma and extend to him best wishes for  
63 continued success in all his future endeavors.

64           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
65 furnished to Mr. Willie Townsend and to the members of the Capitol  
66 Press Corps.

