

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ESTEEMED AND LAUDABLE  
2 LEGISLATIVE CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICE AND MOURNING THE LOSS OF THE  
3 MOST HONORABLE AND DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM JONES,  
4 REPRESENTATIVE GARY V. STAPLES.

5 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our  
6 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far  
7 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at  
8 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:  
9 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which  
10 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and  
11 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of the  
12 honorable and distinguished Gentleman from Jones, former  
13 Representative Gary V. Staples, who represented House District 88,  
14 which encompasses portions of Jasper and Jones Counties, for more  
15 than 21 years, as he has made life's final transition from earthly  
16 travailing to heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to  
17 his family and friends; and

18 WHEREAS, the Laurel community of Jones County lost a  
19 wonderful friend with the passing of Representative Staples, born



20 to his late parents, Mr. Victor and Mrs. Opal Staples, on Tuesday,  
21 January 16, 1940, and there is now a hush in our hearts as we come  
22 together to pay our respects to the memory of one who has been  
23 called to join that innumerable heavenly caravan; and

24 WHEREAS, under the exceptional guidance of his parents, who  
25 placed a premium value on religion, education and civic  
26 involvement, a young Gary graduated from Glade High School, and  
27 thought it best to remain close to home for his postsecondary  
28 matriculation at Jones County Junior College before transferring  
29 to the University of Southern Mississippi, before answering the  
30 call to patriot arms in defense of the stars and banners of  
31 democracy when he enlisted in the United States Navy; and

32 WHEREAS, before assuming his first term as a member of the  
33 Mississippi House of Representatives from District 88 in 1988,  
34 Representative Staples, devoted himself to keeping people  
35 connected as a cable splicing technician with BellSouth, before  
36 retiring after 31 years, and subsequently performing consulting  
37 work for Northstar Communications, Inc., as well as SunCoast  
38 Communications as a consultant; and

39 WHEREAS, upon his re-election to the House in 2004,  
40 Representative Staples became the distinguished Gentleman from  
41 Jones upon being sworn into office, and wasted no time requesting  
42 the legislation, amendments and reports that would help effectuate  
43 into law the ideologies and policy changes that his constituents  
44 had elected him to further; and



45           WHEREAS, Representative Staples's love and deeply felt  
46   respect for the Legislature as a hallowed institution was innately  
47   apparent in his welcoming and authentically pleasant and cordial  
48   disposition, which have served as beacons of hope in pursuits to  
49   preserve and nurture the integrity of the body for all  
50   legislators; and

51           WHEREAS, during his tenure as a legislator, Representative  
52   Staples has served on the following committees: Agriculture;  
53   Conservation and Water Resources; Education; Labor; Fees and  
54   Salaries of Public Officers; Forestry; Oil, Gas and Other  
55   Minerals; Tourism; Universities and Colleges; Public Utilities;  
56   Ways and Means; Banking and Financial Services; Energy, as Vice  
57   Chairman from 2012-2016, and as Chairman from 2016-2020; and  
58   Appropriations; and

59           WHEREAS, not one to limit his community involvement to the  
60   Legislature, Representative Staples, a telecommunications  
61   specialist and consultant by profession, has always been active in  
62   his district and dedicated to improving the quality of life for  
63   all citizens, as evidenced by his service and affiliation as a  
64   member of the Jones County Board of Education, the Jones County  
65   Farm Bureau Board, the EDA Board of Jones County, the Telephone  
66   Pioneers of America, the Jones County Cattlemen's Association, the  
67   Jones County Rosin Heels Sons of Confederate Veterans and American  
68   Legion Posts 11 and 40 et 8; and



69           WHEREAS, while Representative Staples has been favored with  
70 many opportunities both far and near, those that really know his  
71 heart know that his first love is his darling wife, Mrs. Betty  
72 Norton Staples, who, in accordance with the blueprint divinely  
73 designed for the pattern of Gary's life by the Great Deity and  
74 grand architect of our lives' destiny, won her suitor's heart with  
75 her warm disposition, beautiful smile, genteel nature, and with  
76 whom he embarked upon a remarkable journey of love that spanned  
77 more than 53 years, which was highlighted with sparks of joy with  
78 the addition of two sons; and

79           WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives will  
80 cherish the bond and common goals for the betterment of this great  
81 state shared with the Honorable Representative Gary V. Staples  
82 over the course of the past 21 years, and that his impeccable  
83 service was unparalleled to the Mississippi Legislature and to the  
84 constituents of District 88; and

85           WHEREAS, Representative Staples led a life of bravery in the  
86 face of challenge, sincerity in the face of apathy and honesty in  
87 the presence of deceit, and through it all, he remained a  
88 phenomenal gentleman, grounded in his integrity, who sought to  
89 improve the lives of others through positive example, hard work  
90 and the undeniable truths of the Word of God; and

91           WHEREAS, though he has traversed life's river to now stand  
92 upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's grandeur in  
93 glorious reunion with the kindred spirits who transitioned before



94 him, including his parents Victor and Opal Staples, the legacy of  
95 Representative Staples' indelible imprint upon our lives will  
96 continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his beloved  
97 survivors: devoted wife of 53 years, Betty Norton Staples; sons,  
98 Garrick Staples (Wendy) and Grant Staples (Hope); grandchildren,  
99 Solomon Staples, Seth Staples, Chase Welborn, Brooke Moffett  
100 (Trevor) and Brett Welborn; brothers, David Staples (Sylvia),  
101 Johnny Staples (Barbara), Danny Staples (Barbara), Jack Staples  
102 (June), Joe Staples, Ben Staples (Janet) and Sam Staples (Kay);  
103 sisters, Rachel Hull (Johnny), Sarah Brashier (Joe), Rebekah  
104 Walter (Peter), Judy Davis (Jimmy) and Vickie Smith (Jim); and a  
105 host of nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends; and

106 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to honor the  
107 indelible legacy of remarkable service of our former colleague and  
108 friend, Representative Gary V. Staples, who represented his  
109 district, this body and the people of this state with honor and  
110 intrepid dignity, and whose monumental life of a genuine  
111 selflessness illuminated the path of hope for all he encountered  
112 along this earthly sojourn:

113 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
114 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
115 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the esteemed and laudable  
116 legislative career and public service and mourn the loss of the  
117 most honorable, distinguished Gentleman from Jones, Representative



118 Gary V. Staples, to whose family we express sincere and deepest  
119 sympathy upon his passing.

120 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
121 furnished to the family of Representative Gary V. Staples and to  
122 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

