

By: Representatives Hines, Stamps, Bell
(65th), Clarke, Gibbs (72nd), Summers,
Foster, Paden, Clark, Bailey, Banks, Barton,
Blackmon, Brown (70th), Carpenter, Goodin,
Harness, Holloway, Hopkins, Newman, Rushing,
Straughter, Tullos, Watson, Williams-Barnes, Yates

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 38

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE STELLAR SUCCESS
2 OF THE JACKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT'S JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER'S
3 TRAINING CORPS (JROTC) PROGRAM.

4 WHEREAS, the Jackson Public School District's Junior Reserve
5 Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) Program annually serves thousands
6 of at-risk students throughout the district's seven high schools,
7 with an annual enrollment average of approximately 1,800 cadets;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the largest in the State of Mississippi, Jackson
10 Public School District's JROTC Program, analyzed by the
11 Mississippi Office of the State Auditor for effectiveness
12 utilizing interviews, accreditation documents and outcome data,
13 has been determined to outperform many outstanding JROTC programs
14 at the state and national levels; and

15 WHEREAS, a program that centralizes its focus on the use of
16 retired military service members, each of whom possess a minimum
17 of 20 years of military experience, discipline and structure, as
18 instructors of military history, other military-based courses and



19 drill formation in more than 3,400 high schools throughout the
20 nation to fulfill its mission "To Motivate Young People to be
21 Better Citizens" through leadership and character development,
22 including in Mississippi's 84 JROTC programs affiliated with each
23 of the nation's four military installations, Army, Air Force, Navy
24 and Marines; and

25 WHEREAS, an active component of the Jackson Public School
26 District since 1936, the district's JROTC program experienced
27 exponential growth between 1971 and 1980, when each of the
28 district's high schools implemented its own units, with Powell
29 Middle School establishing a Junior Cadet Corps Unit in 2016; and

30 WHEREAS, students enrolled in JROTC consistently reflect
31 increased academic achievement, higher daily attendance rates,
32 higher graduation rates, lower disciplinary and dropout rates,
33 claims which have been consistently validated in JPS' statistical
34 evidence over the course of the last decade, which accounts for:
35 an almost 100% graduation rate of cadet participants in comparison
36 to the state's 85% and district's 75.1% respective graduation
37 rates; 26.4% enrollment rate across the district's entire high
38 school student population; average daily attendance of 95% in
39 comparison to three of the district's high schools which accounted
40 among the top five worst absenteeism rates in the state; average
41 GPA of 2.8; average ACT score of 18.2, in comparison to the
42 district average of 15.4 and state average of 17.86; and an
43 accumulation of an average of 38,783 annual service hours; and



44 WHEREAS, every three years since 2005, the JROTC Program for
45 Accreditation (JPA), an independent national accrediting agency,
46 has reviewed and evaluated the JPS Army JROTC programs on
47 personnel and administration, education and training, operations,
48 school logistics and supply, and in its 2020 accreditation audit,
49 all seven JPS high schools scored in the top tier, which now
50 affords every JPS JROTC cadet the esteemed privilege to wear a
51 gold star on his or her uniform, signifying the program's
52 excellence; and

53 WHEREAS, to receive evaluation scores that translate into
54 Gold Level Support assignment, programs must achieve 95-100
55 points, and after accreditation review the following score
56 assignments were issued: Lanier High School - 97; Forest Hill
57 High School - 98; Callaway High School - 99; Murrah High School -
58 99; Provine High School - 99; Wingfield High School - 99; and Jim
59 Hill High School - 100; and

60 WHEREAS, led by retired Army Colonel Paul Willis for the last
61 16 years, the JPS JROTC Program has benefitted from Colonel
62 Willis' 25 years of Army experience, having served until July 1,
63 2004, after initially enlisting on May 13, 1979, upon graduating
64 from Alcorn State University, and coupling his service in
65 Operation Desert Shield as a military transportation logistics and
66 organization strategist with his practical real world experience
67 of capitalizing on essential partnerships with former service
68 members, postsecondary educational institutions and other



69 organizations to provide training and education programs that
70 expose cadets to opportunities available beyond high school; and

71 WHEREAS, capitalizing on a concerted team effort, the success
72 of the JPS JROTC Program is directly attributable to the highly
73 talented and hard-working instructors who go above and beyond the
74 every day call of duty to ensure cadets have the greatest ability
75 to maximize opportunities for exposure to the best learning and
76 leadership development experiences possible, in addition to the
77 supportive relationship fostered among school and district level
78 administrators, the City of Jackson, the State of Mississippi, and
79 graduates of the program who have adopted the mantra, "Once a
80 cadet, always a cadet," and who remain actively engaged to build
81 character and inspire others to succeed; and

82 WHEREAS, in a true attestation to the riveting success of the
83 JPS JROTC Program in the last ten years, the program has averaged
84 233 cadets graduating each year with a college acceptance rate of
85 95%, which accounted for an annual average of \$4,993,806.00 in
86 scholarships, roughly \$22,394.00 per cadet, and further culminated
87 in apex performance during the 2018-2019 school year with 288
88 graduating cadets with a 96.8% college acceptance rate and
89 tallying more than \$10.1 million in scholarships; and

90 WHEREAS, the success of the JPS JROTC Program hinges on the
91 support of the many parents and organizations which emphasize the
92 paramount importance of citizenship coupled with academics,
93 leadership and discipline, breathe life into and lay the



94 foundation for the effectiveness of the African proverb, "It takes
95 a village to raise a child"; and

96 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
97 underscore the diligence and commitment of each administrative,
98 instructional and student component that comprises the Jackson
99 Public School District's Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps
100 (JROTC) Program, each of whom have zealously contributed to the
101 program's ability to reach and sustain its zenith of excellence
102 throughout the state and nation:

103 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
104 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
105 recognize and commend the stellar success of the Jackson Public
106 School District's Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC)
107 Program and the distinguished leadership of Colonel Paul L.
108 Willis, and extend best wishes for continued success in all their
109 future endeavors.

110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
111 furnished to Colonel Paul L. Willis, the Superintendent of the
112 Jackson Public School District, the principals of all seven
113 Jackson Public School District High Schools with JROTC Programs
114 and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

