

By: Representatives Hines, Williams-Barnes, To: Rules
Bell (65th), Johnson, Cockerham, Clark,
Harness

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 40

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND
2 MERITORIOUS LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE OF REVEREND ROBERT L. COOK UPON
3 THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
4 THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS.

5 WHEREAS, the Deputy Executive Director of the Mississippi
6 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and exceptional public
7 servant, Reverend Robert L. Cook, retired on February 28, 2021,
8 after a remarkably distinguished career of exemplary leadership
9 and service to the State of Mississippi; and

10 WHEREAS, during his tenure as the Deputy Executive Director
11 of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks,
12 Reverend Cook was the highest ranking African American in a state
13 natural resource agency in the country; and

14 WHEREAS, the son of the late William Cook, Sr., and Florence
15 Cook, Reverend Cook is a native of Magnolia, Mississippi, and
16 graduated from South Pike High School before earning his bachelor
17 of science degree in criminal justice and correctional services
18 from Jackson State University in 1978; and



19 WHEREAS, after completing several semesters of graduate work
20 in public administration, Reverend Cook began his professional
21 career as a deputy sheriff in his hometown of Magnolia,
22 Mississippi, in 1979, and just one year later, in July 1980, he
23 became only the second African American to hold the position of
24 criminal investigator for the State Attorney General's Office; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1986, Reverend Cook was promoted in state service
26 to Investigative Chief with the Office of the State Auditor, an
27 appointment that began a trend in his career of becoming the first
28 African American to hold senior management positions with a number
29 of state agencies, including Director of the State Capitol Police,
30 Director of Program Integrity and Inspector General for the
31 Mississippi Department of Human Services, Deputy Administrator for
32 Administration for the Department of Human Services and Director
33 of Administrative Services for the Department of Wildlife,
34 Fisheries and Parks; and

35 WHEREAS, currently, Reverend Cook, an immensely proud and
36 dedicated Jackson State University alumnus, is the chair and
37 co-founder of the Jackson State University Tiger Fund, which is
38 Jackson State's Athletic Foundation, a charter member of the Blue
39 Bengal Athletic Association, chair of the Board of Directors for
40 the Jackson State University Sports' Hall of Fame, a member of the
41 Jackson State University Development Foundation Board of Directors
42 and a member of the State of Mississippi Wireless Communication
43 Commission; and



44 WHEREAS, additionally, Reverend Cook is a past member of the
45 Central Mississippi Sickle Cell Foundation's Board of Directors
46 and the Mississippi Contract Review Board, past chair of the
47 Southeastern Association of Wildlife and Fisheries Agencies'
48 Minorities in Natural Resource Committee, president and founder of
49 Metro Karate Clubs, Inc., and the National Martial Arts Alliance;
50 and

51 WHEREAS, Reverend Cook also serves as Senior Pastor of Seven
52 Springs United Methodist Church in Raymond, Mississippi, as a
53 member of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist
54 Church and as a son of Anderson United Methodist Church; and

55 WHEREAS, throughout his career, Reverend Cook has received
56 unwavering support from his three sons, Chris, Carlos and Corey,
57 and served as a mentor to many other young men throughout his
58 community; and

59 WHEREAS, Reverend Cook has been an incredible public servant
60 to the Magnolia State not only as the Deputy Executive Director of
61 the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, but
62 also in the numerous other roles he held throughout state
63 government, and his knowledge, skill and strenuous laboriousness
64 will be dearly missed by all of his colleagues and others who were
65 fortunate to have the opportunity to work with him and experience
66 his greatness; and

67 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
68 recognize and commend the steadfast devotion to the betterment of



69 Mississippi and honor the ardent vow to impeccable public service
70 that Reverend Robert L. Cook bestowed upon the citizens of
71 Mississippi as the Deputy Executive Director of the Mississippi
72 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks:

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
74 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
75 commend the distinguished career and meritorious leadership and
76 service of Reverend Robert L. Cook upon the occasion of his
77 retirement as the Deputy Executive Director of the Mississippi
78 Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and extend sincere
79 wishes for rest and relaxation in the lighter days ahead.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
81 furnished to Reverend Robert L. Cook and to the members of the
82 Capitol Press Corps.

