

By: Representative Anthony

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 50

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ESTEEMED AND LAUDABLE LEGISLATIVE  
2 CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE MOST HONORABLE AND DISTINGUISHED  
3 GENTLELADY FROM SUNFLOWER, REPRESENTATIVE SARA RICHARDSON THOMAS,  
4 UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES.

6 WHEREAS, the honorable and distinguished Gentlelady from  
7 Sunflower, Sara Richardson Thomas, retired from the Mississippi  
8 House of Representatives on Saturday, June 30, 2018, after  
9 tirelessly working on behalf of the people of Mississippi and  
10 House District 31, which has included portions of Sunflower,  
11 Bolivar, Humphreys and Washington Counties, for 21 consecutive  
12 years from the historical floor of the majestically adorned,  
13 ornate and hallowed House Chamber; and

14 WHEREAS, before assuming her seat as the member of the  
15 Mississippi House of Representatives from District 31, the same  
16 seat previously held by her brother, William (Bill) Richardson,  
17 Representative Thomas, a graduate of Gentry High School's Class of  
18 1958, charted the path for a career in education by matriculating  
19 at Mississippi Valley State University, where she acquired both



20 her bachelor of science and master of science degrees in  
21 elementary education, the attainment of which further fueled her  
22 passion for education and insatiable quest for knowledge, as she  
23 undertook additional courses of study at Delta State University  
24 and Mississippi State University, the latter of which conferred  
25 upon her a master of science degree in administration and  
26 supervision; and

27 WHEREAS, the Honorable Representative Sara Richardson Thomas  
28 was diligently serving the citizens of her community, having  
29 served in both instructional and administrative capacities at East  
30 Sunflower Elementary and East Moorhead Elementary, respectively  
31 before her retirement, and before being catapulted into the  
32 political arena after the untimely passing of her predecessor and  
33 brother, the late honorable William (Bill) Richardson, on March  
34 25, 1997; and

35 WHEREAS, upon her election in 1997, Sara became the  
36 distinguished Gentlelady from Sunflower and wasted no time  
37 requesting the legislation, amendments and reports that would help  
38 effectuate into law the ideologies and policy changes that her  
39 constituents had elected her to further, due, in great part, to  
40 her passion and genuine desire to better this great Magnolia  
41 State; and

42 WHEREAS, Representative Thomas' love and deeply felt respect  
43 for the Legislature as a sacred institution were assets used to  
44 lead her fight to preserve and nurture its integrity, becoming a



45 guardian of this sacred institution during a time in Mississippi's  
46 history when the diversity of the House membership expanded to  
47 include meaningful participation by women, African Americans,  
48 Republicans and Democrats alike, who equally hold a lion's share  
49 in the stake of advancing the direction of the state's economic,  
50 educational, social and political climate; and

51 WHEREAS, during her tenure as a legislator from 1997 until  
52 2018, Representative Thomas served on the following committees:  
53 Agriculture; Conservation and Water Resources; Corrections;  
54 Education, of which she served as vice chairperson from 2008-2012;  
55 Ethics; Executive Contingent Fund, of which she served as vice  
56 chairperson from 2004-2006; Gaming; Investigate State Offices;  
57 Judiciary B; Juvenile Justice; Municipalities; Penitentiary;  
58 Public Buildings, Grounds and Lands; Public Property; State  
59 Library; Tourism, of which she served as vice chairperson from  
60 2006-2008 and again from 2017-2018; Universities and Colleges; and  
61 Youth and Family Affairs, of which she served as vice chairperson  
62 from 2012-2016; and

63 WHEREAS, not one to limit her community involvement to the  
64 Legislature, Representative Thomas has always been active in her  
65 district and dedicated to improving the quality of life for all  
66 citizens, as evidenced by her service through membership and  
67 affiliation with the following: Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist  
68 Church; Phi Delta Kappa; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; both  
69 the Mississippi and National Associations of Educators;



70 Mississippi Retired Teachers Association; Mississippi Valley State  
71 Alumni Association; Regalette Civic and Social Club; Delta  
72 Uniserv; Crepe Myrtle Garden Club; Sunflower County Educators  
73 Association; Mississippi Blues Commission; Lower Mississippi Delta  
74 Service Corps, Inc.; Flemming Fellow; and the National Association  
75 for the Advancement of Colored People; and

76 WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives will  
77 cherish the bond and common goals for the betterment of this great  
78 state shared with the Honorable Sara Richardson Thomas, and that  
79 her impeccable service was unparalleled to the Mississippi  
80 Legislature and to the constituents of District 31; and

81 WHEREAS, Representative Thomas has led and continues to lead  
82 a life of bravery in the face of challenge, sincere commitment in  
83 the face of apathy and honesty in the presence of deceit, and  
84 through it all, this remarkable giant of a lady has remained  
85 phenomenally grounded in her integrity and great conviction, as  
86 her entire career in public service, from the classroom to  
87 committee rooms, has sought to improve the lives of others through  
88 positive example, hard work and the undeniable truths of the Word  
89 of God; and

90 WHEREAS, the service of Representative Thomas would be  
91 without honor but for the continued support, encouragement and  
92 love of her family, who have endured the daunting struggles that  
93 accompany the life of a public official, and much credit is also  
94 due to her loved ones who have sacrificed countless hours without



95 her in order to allow her to fulfill her legislative obligations,  
96 including: her husband, Arthur Thomas; sons, Kenneth Orlando  
97 (Delinda) Thomas and Edwin Terrell (Misti) Thomas; and grandsons,  
98 Marcus and Tai; and

99 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
100 honor the indelible legacy of remarkable service of our former  
101 colleague and friend, Representative Sara Richardson Thomas, who  
102 represented her district, this body and the people of this state  
103 with honor and dignity:

104 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
105 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
106 commend the esteemed and laudable legislative career and public  
107 service of the most honorable and distinguished Gentlelady from  
108 Sunflower, Representative Sara Richardson Thomas, and express  
109 fondest respect and best wishes for continued success in all of  
110 her future endeavors as she enjoys the lighter years of  
111 retirement.

112 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
113 furnished to Representative Sara Richardson Thomas and to the  
114 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

