

By: Representative Kinkade

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 53

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING DR. SAM  
2 POLLES UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
3 OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Sam Polles, the longest-serving Executive  
5 Director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and  
6 Parks (MDWFP), is retiring after 29 outstanding years; and

7 WHEREAS, after graduating from Clarksdale High School in  
8 Clarksdale, Mississippi, Dr. Polles attended Mississippi State  
9 University his freshman year; however, he returned to Clarksdale  
10 when his father became ill to help with the family business; and

11 WHEREAS, thankfully, his father recovered his health, and  
12 Dr. Polles continued his education at Delta State University in  
13 pre-medical/pre-dental, and after graduating from Delta State, he  
14 enrolled in graduate school at Mississippi State University, where  
15 he received his master's and doctorate degrees; and

16 WHEREAS, after college, Dr. Polles began working at the  
17 University of Georgia, and after several years, he accepted a  
18 position with the United States Department of Agriculture at



19 Stoneville, Mississippi, and after working there for three years,  
20 he accepted a position with Bass Pecan Company as a general  
21 manager, and ended up joining two of the owner's family members in  
22 buying the company, and while there, he and his partners continued  
23 to operate the company for several years before selling the  
24 business, and then, after a few years of being self-employed and  
25 working primarily in Georgia as a consultant, in 1992, he was  
26 invited to interview with Governor Kirk Fordice for the position  
27 of Executive Director with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,  
28 Fisheries and Parks; and

29 WHEREAS, after interviewing with Governor Fordice, Dr. Polles  
30 was appointed as Executive Director in July 1992, and since then,  
31 he has served under five governors during his illustrious career;  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, during nearly three decades of outstanding  
34 leadership, Dr. Polles has guided the agency toward many  
35 groundbreaking accomplishments that have affected citizens across  
36 the Magnolia State, including: implementing point-of-sale systems  
37 for purchasing licenses, boat registrations, and park facilities  
38 reservations; expanding Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) to offer  
39 the sporting public high-quality hunting opportunities unlike any  
40 in the southeast, and a state lakes system and other public  
41 waterways providing anglers with storied fishing experiences;  
42 improving the state parks system despite continued budget cuts,  
43 record storms, aging infrastructure, and a lack of external



44 support; developing state-of-the-art shooting facilities at  
45 McIvor, McHenry, and Turcotte; implementing an "award-winning"  
46 Archery in Schools in Scholastic Shooting programs, which promote  
47 outdoor recreation to the state's youth; establishing a  
48 first-class Conservation Officer Training Academy at Holmes County  
49 State Park; establishing, training, and equipping the statewide  
50 Special Response Team within the Law Enforcement Division to  
51 assist local communities in the event of natural disasters or any  
52 potential threat to public safety; developing and implementing a  
53 comprehensive career ladder for the professional staff of the  
54 department's Law Enforcement, Wildlife, and Fisheries Bureaus; and  
55 constructing the new Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and the  
56 state office headquarters; and

57 WHEREAS, MDWFP is one of a very few agencies that touches the  
58 lives of citizens across this state every single day, whether it  
59 be through its state park system, WMAs, state lakes, Fisheries  
60 Education Centers, Hunting or Boating Education Programs, the  
61 Museum of Natural Science Educational Outreach Programs, state  
62 shooting sports facilities, Archery in Schools Program, or the  
63 officers of our Law Enforcement Bureau, and Dr. Polles, and the  
64 dedicated men and women of the department work tirelessly to  
65 provide daily services to Mississippians in every corner of this  
66 state; and

67 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
68 and honor great Mississippians, especially those such as Dr.



69 Polles, whose tireless efforts and steadfast commitment to  
70 preserve Mississippi's rich and historic conservation heritage  
71 will be remembered for generations to come:

72         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
73 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
74 THEREIN, That we do recognize and honor Dr. Sam Polles upon the  
75 occasion of his retirement as Executive Director of the  
76 Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and  
77 extend sincerest wishes for continued success in his lighter days  
78 ahead.

79         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
80 furnished to Dr. Sam Polles and to the members of the Capitol  
81 Press Corps.

