

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.

