

By: Representatives Mims, Porter

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 84

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE RICH AND HISTORICAL  
2 LEGACY OF THE CITY OF MCCOMB, MISSISSIPPI, AND CONGRATULATING THE  
3 CITY UPON THE OCCASION OF ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY,  
4 ACKNOWLEDGING 150 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE.

5 WHEREAS, chartered on April 5, 1872, through special  
6 enactment by the Mississippi Legislature, after being chosen in  
7 1871 by Colonel Henry Simpson McComb, president of the New  
8 Orleans, Jackson and Greater Northern Railroad, as the northern  
9 location for its railroad shops and division headquarters in  
10 furtherance of the development of the rail line by way of Pass  
11 Manchac, the City of McComb will celebrate its Sesquicentennial  
12 Anniversary, acknowledging 150 years of rich and historical  
13 excellence; and

14 WHEREAS, prior to his death in 1881, Colonel McComb had sold  
15 his interest in the railroad, and in June of 1882, the Illinois  
16 Central Railroad had begun leasing and operating the railroad,  
17 which initiated the completed expansion of the line to Chicago by  
18 1891, and the completion of its second main track by 1903,  
19 bringing with it an influx of new inhabitants; and



20           WHEREAS, boasting a storied legacy, the "Railroad City," as  
21 it has come to be known, was twice occupied by federal troops or  
22 state militiamen in furtherance of preserving the peace, suffered  
23 through the 1878 Yellow Fever epidemic, recovered from the June  
24 21, 1904 fire, which began in a Chinese laundry and destroyed 22  
25 downtown buildings, and the November 29, 1942 fire which decimated  
26 the McComb High School along with the records of all elementary  
27 students ever to attend the McComb schools from 1920 through 1943,  
28 and was an iconic location of efforts to further the tenets of the  
29 Civil Rights Movement; and

30           WHEREAS, the first among cities of its size in industry,  
31 mercantile importance, religious and educational facilities,  
32 public improvements, and general progressiveness, the City of  
33 McComb, only 50 years after its founding, comprised a total area  
34 of two square miles, that included 125 miles of streets, seven  
35 large schools, 13 churches of the Baptist, Methodist,  
36 Presbyterian, Episcopal, Christian, Nazarene, Christian Science  
37 and Roman Catholic denominations, 19 blocks of paved streets in  
38 the city's business center, three hospitals, and an assessed  
39 valuation of \$5,635,193.00; and

40           WHEREAS, with the railroad at the center of its economic  
41 viability, McComb thrived as an industrial giant, as industry  
42 proved to be its paramount achievement in its narrative of  
43 success, the mechanical departments and the rail car shops ensured  
44 the robust advancement of Illinois Central Railroad, and spawned



45 the creation of several businesses to accommodate the needs of the  
46 city's residents, including: X.A. Kramer Industries, which  
47 consisted of the acquisition and renovation of the McColgan Hotel,  
48 the McComb Ice Company, the McComb Creamery, the McComb Ice Cream  
49 Company and the McComb Commissary; the Allen Lumber Company; the  
50 Home Light Company; the McComb Cotton Mill; the Berthadale Mills;  
51 the J.J. White Industries, which consisted of the McComb Steam  
52 Laundry, the Dry Cleaning Department and the McComb Cotton Gin;  
53 and the B.V. Slate Industry; and

54 WHEREAS, from its optimistic formation as a tiny railroad  
55 community in 1872, to its now premier status as an estimable  
56 metropolitan area boasting a diverse demography, and proudly  
57 touting the roots of several dozen native sons and daughters who  
58 have reached national acclaim in the television, entertainment,  
59 music, athletic and literary arenas, McComb's pride is embedded in  
60 the hearts of its citizens; and

61 WHEREAS, encompassing an area of 11.6 square miles today, the  
62 city's population of 12,413 residents, according to the 2020  
63 Federal Decennial Census, McComb's history is embodied in an  
64 immersive cultural experience rooted in transparency, by drawing  
65 upon the lessons and growing pains of its former experiences, to  
66 emerge like a phoenix from the ashes with a clean, energetic and  
67 invigorated spirit of hope and inclusiveness to enhance the  
68 quality of life and inspire dreams of great success for every  
69 citizen and visitor for generations to come; and



70           WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to pay tribute  
71 to a municipality such as the City of McComb, which is a place  
72 where the quality of life is still important and where its small  
73 town values stand as a role model throughout the great State of  
74 Mississippi:

75           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
76 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
77 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the rich and historical legacy  
78 of the City of McComb, Mississippi, congratulate the city upon the  
79 occasion of its Sesquicentennial Anniversary, acknowledging 150  
80 years of excellence, and wish it continued success in all its  
81 future endeavors.

82           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
83 furnished to the City of McComb Mayor and Selectmen and to the  
84 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

