

By: Representatives Barton, Read

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 30

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER AND
2 MERITORIOUS LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE THAT MR. DEN KNECHT HAS
3 PROVIDED TO THE JACKSON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Den Knecht has devoted his life to serving and
5 improving the State of Mississippi not only through his
6 professional contributions but also through his service as a
7 member of the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Knecht served 32 years with Ingalls Shipbuilding
9 and its predecessor company Litton Industries, and as vice
10 president since January 1985, he retired in 2003 as vice president
11 for communications and employee services where he was responsible
12 for public relations, security and labor relations for facilities
13 in Pascagoula, Gulfport and New Orleans and was the company's
14 chief spokesman for the negotiation of labor-management contracts;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Knecht has served on the Jackson County Economic
17 Development Foundation's (JCEDF) Board of Directors since December
18 2000, and for over two decades, he has dedicated his time and



19 talents to improving the quality of lives for countless
20 Mississippians and played an instrumental role in the effort to
21 transform the JCEDF into what is now widely regarded as a model of
22 public-private economic development partnership in the State of
23 Mississippi, and in 2002, he served in a leadership role for the
24 JCEDF's first Partners in Progress capital campaign which raised
25 \$6 Million to fund the JCEDF's program of economic development;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, as a result of his unwavering commitment to the
28 JCEDF, Jackson County is enjoying phenomenal economic development
29 success, including the location of Northrop Grumman's Autonomous
30 Systems Center, Gulf LNG Import Terminal, Rolls Royce Naval
31 Marine, James Town Metal expansion, VT Halter Marine Polar
32 Security Cutter expansion and ST Engineering Halter Marine
33 Offshore expansion; and

34 WHEREAS, in January 2004, Mr. Knecht was appointed by his
35 fellow JCEDF Board of Directors to lead Jackson County's defense
36 of Naval Station Pascagoula from closure by the 2005 Base
37 Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC), and he successfully led
38 the effort to both educate and mobilize an entire community
39 towards a dual tract goal of base defense coupled with long term
40 re-utilization of the Singing River Island property for maximum,
41 long-term economic impact; and

42 WHEREAS, Mr. Knecht's time, talent and commitment, before and
43 throughout the BRAC Process, positioned Jackson County to pursue



44 the highest and best utilization of the Naval Station, and under
45 his leadership, the diversification committee set a goal of
46 reaching the full potential of economic development on Singing
47 River Island with the first priority of the committee being to
48 retain and expand as much Department of Defense presence as
49 possible; and

50 WHEREAS, additionally, Mr. Knecht has served on the board of
51 the Jackson County chapter of the American Red Cross and the board
52 of the Public Education Forum of Mississippi, where he is a
53 founding member and past chairman; and

54 WHEREAS, over the past 40 years, Mr. Knecht has been a
55 dedicated, tireless community leader, as his dedication to his
56 community has served as a model and inspiration to others and
57 exemplifies economic development volunteerism at its finest, and
58 his contributions have not only made a significant impact on the
59 lives of the citizens of Jackson County but also on the economic
60 development of the entire Mississippi Gulf Coast region; and

61 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
62 recognize and commend the magnificent contributions to economic
63 development that exceptional Mississippians such as Mr. Den
64 Knecht, provide to the citizens of this great Magnolia State:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
66 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
67 commend the distinguished career and meritorious leadership and
68 service that Mr. Den Knecht has provided to the Jackson County



69 Economic Development Foundation, and extend to him most sincere
70 wishes for continued success in all of his future endeavors.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
72 furnished to Mr. Den Knecht and to the members of the Capitol
73 Press Corps.

