

By: Representatives Barton, Read

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 31

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

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

9 WHEREAS, the son of the late Lum R. Cumbest, Sr., and the
10 late Mae Holder Cumbest, Mr. Royce Cumbest was educated at East
11 Central High School, Millsaps College and the University of
12 Southern Mississippi, and he has worked in the banking and finance
13 industry since 1971, joining Merchants and Marine Bank in 1977 as
14 vice president; and

15 WHEREAS, in March 1985, Mr. Cumbest was elected president and
16 CEO of Merchants and Marine Bank, and in 1991, he became chairman
17 of the board of directors and still serves in that position; and



18 WHEREAS, Mr. Cumbest was chosen to serve on Mississippi
19 Power's board of directors in 2010, and he currently serves as the
20 chairman and director of the Jackson County Economic Development
21 Foundation; and

22 WHEREAS, after Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Cumbest co-chaired
23 Rebuild Jackson County, served as a board member of the
24 Mississippi Hurricane Recovery Fund and of the Governor's
25 Hurricane Relief "Mississippi Rising" concert program, and in
26 2006, he was named one of south Mississippi's outstanding
27 community leaders; and

28 WHEREAS, throughout his professional career, and continuing
29 today, Mr. Cumbest has been active in community, state and
30 national affairs, as he is one of the founders of the Jackson
31 County Economic Development Foundation (JCEDF), has served on its
32 board since 2000, and today serves as Chairman of the Foundation's
33 Board of Directors; and

34 WHEREAS, for over four decades, Mr. Cumbest has dedicated his
35 time and talents to improving the quality of lives for countless
36 Mississippians and played an instrumental role in the effort to
37 transform the JCEDF into what is now widely regarded as a model of
38 public-private economic development partnership in the State of
39 Mississippi, and in 2002, he served in a leadership role for the
40 JCEDF's first Partners in Progress capital campaign which raised
41 \$6 Million to fund the JCEDF's program of economic development;
42 and



43 WHEREAS, as a result of his unwavering commitment to the
44 JCEDF, Jackson County is enjoying phenomenal economic development
45 success, including the location of Northrop Grumman's Autonomous
46 Systems Center, Gulf LNG Import Terminal, Rolls Royce Naval
47 Marine, James Town Metal expansion, VT Halter Marine Polar
48 Security Cutter expansion and ST Engineering Halter Marine
49 Offshore expansion; and

50 WHEREAS, Mr. Cumbest is married to the former Janey Morgan,
51 who has been a pillar of support to him throughout their marriage,
52 and the couple has two children, Jamey and Gray, and four
53 grandchildren, Hayden, Olivia, Cambree and Jack; and

54 WHEREAS, in his spare time, Mr. Cumbest enjoys playing golf
55 and spending time with his family, and he is a lifelong member of
56 Caswell Springs United Methodist Church, where he serves as a
57 member of the administrative board; and

58 WHEREAS, Mr. Cumbest is a man of incredible stature and
59 character, and his professional and community contributions have
60 tremendously advanced the wonderful State of Mississippi; 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. Royce
64 Cumbest, 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. Royce Cumbest 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. Royce Cumbest and to the members of the Capitol
73 Press Corps.

