

By: Senator(s) Blount, Branning, DeBar, Frazier, Horhn, Michel, Norwood, Simmons (12th), Simmons (13th), Sparks

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 509

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING MISSISSIPPI STATE PAROLE
2 BOARD CHAIRMAN STEVEN PICKETT AS THE LONGEST-SERVING CHAIRMAN ON
3 THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 30 YEARS OF EFFECTIVE
4 GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi State Parole Board Chairman Steven
6 Pickett retired from a 30-year career in public service, effective
7 December 31, 2021; and

8 WHEREAS, Steven Pickett ably served for nine years on the
9 five-member Parole Board beginning November 10, 2012, after
10 Governor Phil Bryant appointed him. He was named chairman one
11 year later. Having been reappointed by Governor Tate Reeves in
12 2020, he is the longest-serving chairman; and

13 WHEREAS, Steven Pickett thanked Governor Reeves in his
14 retirement letter and explained, "My thirty years of public
15 service - in law enforcement, with the courts and on the Parole
16 Board - have provided me the opportunity to make a difference in
17 many people's lives. Helping people was my primary goal when I
18 began my career in law enforcement, as it is for all the men and
19 women who protect and serve us. My position on the Parole Board



20 provided me a different kind of opportunity to help others, by
21 giving a second chance to those who earned it and denying it to
22 those who remain a threat to public safety"; and

23 WHEREAS, Steven Pickett came to the board after serving as a
24 longtime deputy to Hinds County Sheriff Malcolm McMillin, who was
25 on the board when Steven Pickett joined. His career also included
26 serving as a Hinds County Youth Court Resource Officer, Hinds
27 County Deputy Chancery Clerk and Justice Court Judge in Hinds
28 County; and

29 WHEREAS, Steven Pickett estimated that he handled more than
30 sixty thousand parole and revocation decisions. "The prison
31 population is the lowest it has been in 22 years, at just under
32 17,000. The decrease in population is due, in large part, to the
33 difficult and important decisions made by the board"; and

34 WHEREAS, Steven Pickett was responsible for organizing and
35 directing the annual Law Enforcement Awards Recognition Ceremony
36 at the Mississippi Trade Mart, the state's largest annual Law
37 Enforcement Memorial Ceremony which honors the state's fallen
38 officers from the previous year and Central Mississippi TOP COPS;
39 and

40 WHEREAS, although he will be leaving government service, he
41 will continue helping others by working with the Mississippi
42 Center for Police & Sheriffs' Warrior Cottages Program in
43 Vicksburg, which provides housing to those in need, including
44 veterans; and



45 WHEREAS, Steven Pickett's legacy is a strong Mississippi
46 prison system and for this and for his selfless public service, a
47 grateful state thanks him:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
50 we do hereby commend Mississippi State Parole Board Chairman,
51 Steven Pickett as the longest-serving chairman on the occasion of
52 his retirement after 30 years of effective service and extend to
53 Steven and his family our best wishes for future success.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 Steven Pickett and his family, forwarded to the State Parole
56 Board, the Commissioner of Corrections and made available to the
57 Capitol Press Corps.

