

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Butler (38th),  
Frazier, Jackson (11th), Norwood, Simmons  
(12th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ATHLETIC AND PROFESSIONAL  
2 EDUCATOR LEGACY OF COACH LEON CAMPBELL AND HIS CIVIC AND  
3 CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

4 WHEREAS, Leon Campbell was born on August 7, 1942, in  
5 Jackson, Mississippi, to the late Jesse and Mary Miller Campbell.  
6 He was a graduate of Brinkley High School in 1960, where he was an  
7 All-State baseball player. Campbell then attended Jackson State  
8 College in the Fall of 1960, where he earned a four-year baseball  
9 scholarship. He was a four-year letterman at Jackson State having  
10 started all four years for the Tigers Baseball Team and serving as  
11 Captain during his Junior and Senior campaigns. In 2006, Campbell  
12 was inducted into the Jackson State University Hall of Fame,  
13 commemorating his achievements on the diamond. He received his  
14 Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics in 1964, with a minor in  
15 Physical Education. Following his collegiate studies, Campbell  
16 taught mathematics and coached the baseball and football teams of  
17 Brinkley Junior and Senior High, his alma mater, and Powell Junior  
18 High Schools; and



19           WHEREAS, in the summer of 1967, Campbell accepted a National  
20 Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowship in Mathematics, where he  
21 studied at Utah State University, then at the University of  
22 Vermont from 1968-1969, and Lafayette College in 1970. In the  
23 fall of 1970, Campbell attended Eastern Illinois University, and  
24 he completed a Master of Science in Mathematics. He then  
25 completed a Specialist Degree in Mathematics and Physical  
26 Education from Jackson State University, achieving a Triple A in  
27 Mathematics and Physical Education. At the conclusion of his  
28 studies, Campbell was one of the first African Americans to  
29 integrate the Jackson Public School District as a professional  
30 educator and coach; and

31           WHEREAS, in the fall of 1971, Campbell accepted a teaching  
32 and coaching position at Whitten High School, where he remained  
33 for the next ten years. He then was reassigned to John H. Powell  
34 Junior High School in 1981, where he began one of the most  
35 successful coaching careers in Mississippi Junior High School  
36 competitive football. Campbell, his staff and players posted a  
37 61-6 record, winning six of seven City Championships during that  
38 time; and

39           WHEREAS, following his record-breaking tenure at Powell  
40 Junior High School, Campbell went on to shatter barriers, becoming  
41 the first African-American Head Football Coach at William B.  
42 Murrah High School in 1989, then again in 1996, becoming the first  
43 Principal of Capitol City Alternative School. At the time of his



44 arrival, the Murrah High School Football Team had not had a  
45 winning season in eight seasons. By the end of his time at the  
46 school, not only had the team posted winning seasons, but a  
47 playoff berth as well; and

48 WHEREAS, after two years of teaching and coaching within the  
49 Jackson Public School system, Campbell transitioned to a  
50 seven-year stint at Piney Woods Country Life School. During his  
51 time at Piney Woods, he led a highly competitive Track and Field  
52 Team, achieving a Second-Place finish in the State of Mississippi  
53 in 2004, and for the first time in school history, the Piney Woods  
54 Boys Soccer Team advanced to the playoffs several years in a row  
55 under Campbell's leadership. Prior to his official retirement  
56 from teaching and coaching, Campbell spent five years at Callaway  
57 High School and three years Canton High School specializing in  
58 Algebra instruction and ACT preparation. Notably, in 2006,  
59 Campbell was inducted into the Jackson State University Hall of  
60 Fame, as a Baseball Honoree; and

61 WHEREAS, Campbell officially retired in May of 2017,  
62 concluding over 52 years of education, coaching and mentoring of  
63 young men and women in the Central Mississippi area. While  
64 Campbell has enjoyed a very long, successful and gratifying career  
65 as "Coach Campbell," his most satisfying and rewarding  
66 accomplishment of his lifetime was in 1992 when he accepted Jesus  
67 Christ as Lord and Savior, under the pastoral leadership of  
68 Reverend Dr. Johnny Barbour, Jr., former Pastor of Pearl Street



69 A.M.E. Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Campbell is presently a  
70 Trustee and Leader of the Master's Men Ministry under the  
71 leadership of his current Pastor, Reverend Dr. Samuel H. Boyd,  
72 Sr.; and

73 WHEREAS, in December of 1966, Campbell married Ruth  
74 Antoinette Batton of Benton, Mississippi, and their marriage  
75 lasted for more than 53 years, until her passing. From their  
76 marriage, four children were born. Campbell has five  
77 grandchildren and countless pets. Some of his most enjoyable  
78 times, during his career, involved his family, having taught both  
79 his daughter and son Honors Algebra in Junior High and High  
80 School, respectively, as well as having coached his son for four  
81 years at Murrah High School. His oldest daughter, Sheva, attended  
82 Mississippi College and is the District Manager of a national  
83 retail store. His middle daughter, Kimberly, is a graduate of  
84 Mississippi State University, earned her Master's from Auburn  
85 University, and graduated from the University of Mississippi  
86 School of Law. She is a former member of the Mississippi House of  
87 Representatives, Attorney and is currently the AARP Mississippi  
88 State Director. His son, Cord, earned his MBA from Notre Dame and  
89 is a CPA in Pennsylvania. Campbell is thrilled to see his  
90 children not only having done well in life, but for becoming good  
91 and decent people; and

92 WHEREAS, we commend an outstanding record of athletic  
93 achievement and legacy of leadership in public education:



94           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
95   MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the athletic and  
96   professional educator legacy of Coach Leon Campbell and his civic  
97   and charitable contributions and extend our best wishes to Coach  
98   Campbell and his family for future successes.

99           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
100   Leon Campbell, forwarded to the Jackson Public School Board and  
101   made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

