

By: Representative Paden

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 39

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MRS.
2 PANNY FLAUTT MAYFIELD UPON BEING NAMED A 2023 NOEL POLK LIFETIME
3 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINEE.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Panny Flautt Mayfield, a lifelong resident of
5 the Mississippi Delta, who grew up in Tutwiler, and has lived in
6 Clarksdale since graduating with honors from the University of
7 Mississippi in 1957, was recently nominated for the 2023 Noel Polk
8 Lifetime Achievement Award; and

9 WHEREAS, as a student at Ole Miss, Mrs. Mayfield served as
10 editor of the student newspaper, received the Taylor Medal in
11 journalism, and was elected to the Hall of Fame, before commencing
12 her career in journalism as a reporter and featured editor for the
13 *Clarksdale Press Register* until 2000, and director of public
14 relations at Coahoma Community College before retiring in 2013;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, since 2020, Mrs. Mayfield has written the online
17 *Dispatch from 415 Court Street, Clarksdale, Mississippi*, under the
18 byline *Journalist Forever*, and as an award-winning journalist who



19 has photographed and written about blues and gospel music,
20 playwright Tennessee Williams and Delta life for decades, she has
21 been recognized with more than 30 awards from the Associated
22 Press, the Mississippi Press Association, the Mississippi Film
23 Commission and the College Public Relations Association of
24 Mississippi; and

25 WHEREAS, having began taking blues photographs in the late
26 1970s after Sid Graves, director of Clarksdale's Carnegie Public
27 Library, founded the Delta Blues Museum and musicians Wesley
28 Jefferson and James "Super Chikan" Johnson asked her to prepare
29 portfolios to help promote their work, Mrs. Mayfield's photographs
30 have been exhibited in museums across the United States and
31 Europe, and have earned critical acclaim from *Aperture* magazine;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, she has served as publicist and documentarian for
34 the Sunflower River Blues and Gospel Festival, launched in 1988 by
35 *Living Blues* magazine founder and Mississippi's Blues Trail
36 research director Jim O'Neal; and

37 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mayfield published her book *Live from the*
38 *Mississippi Delta* in 2017, which showcases more than 200
39 black-and-white and color photographs documenting music from the
40 region, and further enriched by her detailed accounts of the lives
41 of local icons like Early Wright, Wade Walton, and the Jelly Roll
42 Kings as well as reports of international superstars who traveled



43 from around the world to pay homage to the legends who influenced
44 their music; and

45 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mayfield's articles about America's great
46 playwright from Mississippi have been published extensively, and
47 an International Tennessee Williams Conference in France,
48 sponsored by the University of Nantes in the early 1990s, featured
49 her slide presentation and address about Williams and his Delta
50 connections; and

51 WHEREAS, it was during Mrs. Mayfield's attendance at this
52 conference that scholars encouraged her to organize the
53 Mississippi Delta Tennessee Williams Festival, and Coahoma
54 Community College received a National Endowment for the Arts grant
55 for its inauguration; and

56 WHEREAS, since its inaugural launch in 1993, Mrs. Mayfield
57 directed, publicized and documented the event until 2018, which
58 has been an outstanding fall event in Clarksdale, hosted the
59 United States Postal Service's Tennessee Williams postage stamp
60 unveiling in 1995, and was recorded for a BBC documentary that
61 aired in the United Kingdom; and

62 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
63 ambassadors of the arts and letters of Mrs. Mayfield's caliber,
64 who for more than half a century has been truly extraordinary and
65 worthy of special honor:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
67 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING



68 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Panny
69 Flautt Mayfield upon being named a 2023 Noel Polk Lifetime
70 Achievement Award Nominee and extend our best wishes for continued
71 success in all her future endeavors.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
73 furnished to Mrs. Panny Flautt Mayfield and to the members of the
74 Capitol Press Corps.

