

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.

