

By: Representative Roberson

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ESTEEMED AND LAUDABLE  
2 LEGISLATIVE CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE MOST HONORABLE AND  
3 DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM RANKIN, REPRESENTATIVE TOM  
4 WEATHERSBY, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE  
5 MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

6 WHEREAS, the honorable and distinguished Gentleman from  
7 Rankin, Representative Tom Weathersby has announced his plans for  
8 retirement from the Mississippi House of Representatives at the  
9 conclusion of the 2023 Regular Session of the Mississippi  
10 Legislature, after tirelessly working on behalf of the citizens of  
11 Mississippi and House District 62, situated in Rankin County, for  
12 32 consecutive years from the historical floor of the majestically  
13 aesthetic, ornate and hallowed House Chamber; and

14 WHEREAS, before assuming his seat as the member of the  
15 Mississippi House of Representatives from District 62,  
16 Representative Weathersby led an exciting life as an exceptional  
17 basketball player at Florence High School, who acquired the  
18 nicknames "Shorty" and "Stump" due to his height, an whose  
19 extraordinary skills afforded him the privileges of playing in the



20 Mississippi High School All Star Basketball Game during his senior  
21 year and earning a basketball scholarship to Hinds Junior College,  
22 where he played for two years before transferring to the  
23 University of Southern Mississippi to complete his college  
24 matriculation with a bachelor's degree in education; and

25 WHEREAS, an individual held in high esteem for maintaining a  
26 reputable rapport with his peers, it was evident early in  
27 Representative Weathersby's formative years that he was poised for  
28 leadership after his selection as Mr. Florence High School and  
29 President of his high school senior class, a characterization of  
30 respect that followed him to Hinds, where he was also elected as  
31 President of the Student Body and Mr. Hinds Junior College; and

32 WHEREAS, holding fast to the powerful impacts made by his  
33 high school teachers upon his life, Representative Weathersby  
34 deemed it befitting to return to his high school alma mater, as a  
35 teacher and coach in 1967, in an effort to make similar strides to  
36 positively influence the lives of the state's next generation of  
37 ambitious leaders; and

38 WHEREAS, during his 13 year tenure in education,  
39 Representative Weathersby coached the Florence High School "Lady  
40 Eagles" Girls Basketball Team, earning the Little Dixie  
41 Conference's "Coach of the Year" honor in 1969, capturing the 1970  
42 state championship with the Lady Eagles in 1970, while  
43 simultaneously working to obtain a master's degree from  
44 Mississippi College, which positioned him to become principal of



45 the Florence Elementary School and thereafter appointed as  
46 assistant principal at Florence High School; and

47 WHEREAS, in transitioning from the classroom and school  
48 administrator's roles to the business arena, Representative  
49 Weathersby joined his brother Lynn at King Weathersby Appliance  
50 Company in 1982, working alongside his brother for 10 years,  
51 before pursuing dual endeavors as an entrepreneurial owner and  
52 operator of Atlas Pallet Company, in Florence from 1990 until  
53 2008, when he sold the business; and

54 WHEREAS, an aspiring politician, he set his sights upon the  
55 Mississippi Legislature, and upon a successful election bid in  
56 1991, Tom Weathersby became the distinguished Gentleman from  
57 Rankin upon being sworn into office on the first day of his first  
58 legislative session in January 1992, and wasted no time requesting  
59 the legislation, amendments and reports that would help effectuate  
60 into law the ideologies and policy changes that his constituents  
61 had elected him to further, and which he personally supported  
62 important contributions to the state's most progressive  
63 advancements, including: providing for a constitutional  
64 initiative process in 1992, which allowed the citizens to propose  
65 and approve changes to the Mississippi Constitution; creating the  
66 Court of Appeals of Mississippi in 1993, which helped relieve the  
67 burden on the Mississippi Supreme Court in hearing and deciding  
68 appeals; and the creation of the Motor Vehicle Ad Valorem Tax  
69 Reduction Fund in 1994, which reduced the high cost of car tags;



70 and Mississippi Tax Freedom Act of 2022, which provided the  
71 largest tax cut in state history; and

72 WHEREAS, Representative Weathersby served during the terms of  
73 15 of the highest-ranking officers in the executive and  
74 legislative branches during his nearly five decades in the House,  
75 including six governors, beginning with Ray Maybus, six lieutenant  
76 governors, beginning with Eddie Briggs, and three House speakers,  
77 beginning with Tim Ford; and

78 WHEREAS, Representative Weathersby's love and deeply felt  
79 respect for the Legislature as a hallowed institution has led his  
80 fight to preserve and nurture its integrity for all legislators  
81 who equally hold a lion's share in the stake of advancing the  
82 direction of the state's economic, educational and political  
83 climate; and

84 WHEREAS, during his long tenure as a member of the House,  
85 Representative Weathersby has held a number of positions of  
86 leadership, including: Vice Chairman of the Public Utilities  
87 Committee from 1996 until 2000; Vice Chairman of the Public  
88 Buildings, Grounds and Lands Committee (now Public Property) from  
89 2000 until 2004; Chairman of the Public Property Committee from  
90 2004 until 2008 and again from 2012 until 2024; Vice Chairman of  
91 the Municipalities Committee from 2008 until 2012; Vice Chairman  
92 of the Management Committee; and he also served as a member of the  
93 Committees on Agriculture; Appropriations; Banking and Financial  
94 Services; Conservation and Water Resources; Corrections; County



95 Affairs; Education; Energy; Insurance; Oil, Gas and Other  
96 Minerals; Public Health and Welfare (now Public Health and Human  
97 Services); Transportation; and Ways and Means; and

98 WHEREAS, not one to limit his community involvement to the  
99 Legislature, Representative Weathersby has always been active in  
100 his district and dedicated to improving the quality of life for  
101 all citizens, as evidenced by his service as a deacon, a Mason,  
102 member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, Florence Lions Club, member of the  
103 Rankin and Copiah Counties Chambers of Commerce, Mississippi  
104 Cattlemen's Association, Kiwanis, ALEC and the NRA; and

105 WHEREAS, while Representative Weathersby is known and admired  
106 for his always positive outlook, his easy-going temperament, his  
107 insightful intellect and his passion for important issues, and he  
108 has always been and remains a exceptional gentleman, grounded in  
109 integrity, highly regarded for his understanding of the ultimate  
110 purpose of legislation, which is to help people, and he  
111 continually seeks to improve the lives of others through his hard  
112 work, positive example and the undeniable truths of the Word of  
113 God, which have manifested in numerous honors bestowed upon him,  
114 such as Hinds Community College's Alumnus of the Year in 2009,  
115 induction into the 2006 Class of the Hinds Community College  
116 Sports Hall of Fame in 2006, and selection as one of Hinds  
117 Community College's 100 Most Passionate People about Hinds in  
118 2017; and



119           WHEREAS, Representative Weathersby's life is a true testament  
120 to his faith and God being a rewarder of those who diligently seek  
121 him, as he has endured and victoriously conquered numerous health  
122 challenges, including two Stage 4 cancers, an emergency triple  
123 bypass heart surgery, all the while enduring chemotherapy and  
124 radiation treatments, which would deplete an average individual's  
125 strength, but he has earned a true badge of honor as a real-life  
126 Superman, as he continues to lead a purpose-driven life by feeding  
127 35 cows in two different pastures located six miles apart every  
128 day, manually keeps his home pool clean, bush hogs all pastures,  
129 mows three yards, cuts wood for the fireplace and honoring the  
130 requests of a sometimes demanding "honey-do" list, all the while  
131 endeavoring his best to meet the needs of his District 62  
132 constituents; and

133           WHEREAS, leaving the Capitol will not end Representative  
134 Weathersby's passion for public service, and retiring from the  
135 Legislature does not mean that he is retiring, period, as he plans  
136 to maintain his active community involvement on the local level  
137 just as he has at the State Capitol, and wants to continue to make  
138 a difference wherever and in whatever capacity that he has; and

139           WHEREAS, the members of the House will cherish the bond and  
140 common goals for the betterment of this great state shared with  
141 Representative Weathersby over the past 32 years, and his  
142 impeccable service, devotion and unparalleled commitment to the



143 Mississippi Legislature and to the constituents of District 62  
144 will be greatly missed; and

145 WHEREAS, the service of Representative Weathersby would be  
146 without honor but for the continued support, encouragement and  
147 love of his family, who have endured the daunting struggles that  
148 accompany the life of an elected official, and much credit is also  
149 due to his loved ones who have sacrificed countless hours without  
150 him in order to allow him to fulfill his legislative obligations,  
151 including: his wife of 56 years, Beverly Cook Weathersby; sons,  
152 Tommy, Clay and Bradley; and grandchildren, Cabe, Cook, Kelsey,  
153 Grayson, Morgan, Braxton and Shelby; and

154 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to honor the  
155 indelible legacy of remarkable service of our colleague and  
156 friend, Representative Tom Weathersby, who represented his  
157 district, the House of Representatives and the people of this  
158 state with honor and intrepid dignity:

159 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
160 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
161 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the esteemed and laudable  
162 legislative career and public service of the most honorable,  
163 distinguished and senior Gentleman from Rankin, Representative Tom  
164 Weathersby, and express fondest respect and best wishes for  
165 continued success in all of his future endeavors.



166 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
167 furnished to Representative Tom Weathersby and to the members of  
168 the Capitol Press Corps.

