

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.

