

By: Representatives Young, Stamps, Calvert

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 12

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MR. MARTIN "MARTY"  
2 DAVIDSON UPON HIS ENTREPRENEURIAL LEGACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AS  
3 CHAIRMAN AND OWNER OF SOUTHERN PIPE AND SUPPLY COMPANY.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Martin "Marty" Davidson, a native of Lauderdale  
5 County, Mississippi, is being honored for his success as the third  
6 generation owner and CEO of Southern Pipe and Supply Company,  
7 which is headquartered in Mississippi's Queen City - Meridian,  
8 Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, Southern Pipe and Supply, a world renowned company,  
10 began with Mr. Davidson's grandfather, Louis Davidson, who came to  
11 America as a 20-year-old Russian immigrant in 1901 to pursue his  
12 American dream, and in 1918, Mr. Davidson's grandfather began a  
13 company called St. Louis Junk, which was a scrap metal business,  
14 and eventually that business became Southern Pipe and Supply; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1930, Mr. Louis Davidson's sons, Meyer and  
16 Sammie, joined the business, and in 1938, the company sold its  
17 first carload of steel and within a year the business shifted to



18 plumbing supply, and the company name was changed from St. Louis  
19 Junk Company to Southern Pipe and Supply; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Marty Davidson began working in the family  
21 business at the age of 5 by stocking shelves, and seeing the  
22 passion exhibited by his grandfather, Louis, father, Meyer, and  
23 uncle, Sammie, he joined the company in 1962 with a bachelors of  
24 business administration degree from Tulane University; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Davidson, in 1968, became the third generation  
26 owner and continued the rich foundation of treating both customers  
27 and employees with respect and affection - fundamentals that were  
28 created by his grandfather, father and uncle and carries on today  
29 through his son, Jay, who is the fourth generation owner and  
30 president of the company; and

31 WHEREAS, Southern Pipe and Supply has expanded to more than  
32 100 locations across seven states, and in 2019 the company was  
33 named the fastest growing distributor in its industry; and

34 WHEREAS, in 2022, the company unveiled a \$25 million  
35 expansion project in Meridian with the purchase of a 500,000  
36 square foot distribution center, which speaks volumes of the  
37 commitment that the company has to Lauderdale County and  
38 surrounding areas; and

39 WHEREAS, Mr. Davidson, as the chairman of one of the largest  
40 wholesalers of top-quality, name-brand plumbing, heating, air  
41 conditioning (HVAC), industrial, mechanical and waterworks



42 materials in the Southeast, has, nonetheless, always made time to  
43 give back to the community; and

44 WHEREAS, Mr. Davidson, who is a past president of both the  
45 Southern Wholesaler Association and East Mississippi Business  
46 Development Corp., is current president of The Riley Foundation -  
47 an organization that improves the quality of life for the citizens  
48 of Meridian and Lauderdale County; and

49 WHEREAS, Mr. Davidson, a major supporter of Mississippi State  
50 University (MSU), and with the foundation's partnership with MSU  
51 has led to the development of the Riley Campus in downtown  
52 Meridian as well as a scholarship program that assists students  
53 pursue a four-year degree at MSU-Meridian; and

54 WHEREAS, Mr. Davidson also serves as treasurer of the Hardin  
55 Foundation and is a member of Rush Hospital's board of directors  
56 and is a past president of Temple Beth Israel, just to name a few  
57 of his past and present activities; and

58 WHEREAS, due to his entrepreneurial spirit as well as his  
59 philanthropic nature, Mr. Davidson has received several awards,  
60 some of them are as follows: named to the Mississippi Business  
61 Hall of Fame, received the East Mississippi Business Development  
62 Corp.'s Hartley Peavey Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence, Ellis  
63 Island Medal of Honor - a national recognition of contributions  
64 made by immigrants and their children, *Meridian Star's* "Citizen of  
65 the Year" award, and he and his wife, Linda, were named  
66 "Philanthropists of the Year" by Meridian Community College; and



67 WHEREAS, throughout all of his endeavors, Mr. Davidson has  
68 been lovingly supported by his beautiful wife, Linda, their  
69 children, Melanie and Jay, as well as their grandchildren; and

70 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
71 pay tribute to a successful Mississippi businessman such as Mr.  
72 Davidson who appreciates that continual investment into the  
73 community through Southern Pipe and Supply Company, a Mississippi  
74 home-grown business, is key to not only the future of Meridian and  
75 the surrounding areas but this great state as a whole:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
77 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
78 commend and congratulate Mr. Martin "Marty" Davidson on his  
79 success as chairman of Southern Pipe and Supply as well as his  
80 philanthropic spirit, and wish him continued success in all of his  
81 future endeavors.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
83 furnished to Mr. Martin "Marty" Davidson and to the members of the  
84 Capitol Press Corps.

