

By: Representatives Banks, Summers

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED CAREER
2 AND MERITORIOUS LEADERSHIP OF MS. PAMELA D.C. JUNIOR UPON THE
3 OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE TWO MISSISSIPPI
4 MUSEUMS.

5 WHEREAS, Pamela D.C. Junior retired as the director of the
6 Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson on June 30, 2023, after
7 selflessly dedicating three years of illustrious service and
8 competent guidance to the wonderful people of the State of
9 Mississippi and others who visited the museum; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2017, Ms. Junior was named the inaugural director
11 of the first state-sponsored civil rights museum in the nation,
12 the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, and she came to the role
13 after serving as director of the Smith Robertson Museum and
14 Cultural Center for seventeen years; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Junior was promoted to director of the Two
16 Mississippi Museums in 2019, where she continued the work of
17 sharing the stories of Mississippi told in the Museum of
18 Mississippi History and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum; and



19 WHEREAS, before she became director, Ms. Junior graduated
20 from Jackson State University with a bachelor of science degree in
21 education and a minor in special education, and she joined the
22 National Park Service in 1990 as a ranger in Washington, D.C.; and
23 nearly a decade later, she returned to Jackson to work for the
24 city's Parks and Recreation Department; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1999, Ms. Junior was hired as the manager of the
26 Smith Robertson Museum and Cultural Center, where she became
27 co-coordinator of the National Arts Program and acquired on
28 permanent loan the Smithsonian traveling exhibition Field to
29 Factory: The Afro-American Migration, 1915-1940; and

30 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History
31 (MDAH) director Katie Blount said, "Pam Junior came to MDAH with
32 deep roots and credibility in the community, many years of
33 experience in the museum field, and a commitment to excellence
34 that she modeled for younger staff. She personally led many
35 thousands of visitors through the museums, enriching their
36 experience through her passion for history and her boundless
37 charisma. In our first years, Pam Junior lifted-up the Two
38 Mississippi Museums and shared them with the world. We are
39 grateful."; and

40 WHEREAS, throughout her career, Ms. Junior experienced
41 numerous career highlights, but some of her more remarkable
42 included participating in the retirement of the 1894 Mississippi
43 state flag at the official retirement ceremony in 2020, guiding



44 the late Congressman John Lewis through the Mississippi Civil
45 Rights Museum, and spearheading Martin Luther King Jr. Day
46 programming with fellow museum staff in 2018, and adding the
47 Martin Luther King Night of Culture in 2019, just two of the
48 highly attended annual events at the museums; and

49 WHEREAS, civil rights leader Myrlie Evers said Ms. Junior "is
50 a woman who knows that she did not travel her road alone, but on
51 the shoulders of those who came before her", and "is imbued with
52 the fortitude, wisdom, and faith of her grandmother, mother,
53 mentors, and civil rights veterans", and "her leadership reflects
54 her commitment to Mississippi and the honest telling of our
55 history"; and

56 WHEREAS, Ms. Junior has been honored over the years for both
57 her professional and community work and received numerous awards,
58 such as the Freedom Rider Award from the Mississippi Freedom 50th
59 Foundation, the For My People Award from the Margaret Walker
60 Center at Jackson State University, the Hometown Hero Award from
61 the Jackson Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Museum
62 Leadership Award by the Association of African American Museums,
63 and she was inducted into the Mississippi Tourism Hall of Fame;
64 and

65 WHEREAS, after her retirement, Ms. Junior continues to serve
66 the community as a board member for Visit Jackson and an advisory
67 board member for the Mississippi Book Festival, and she is also a
68 member of the International Women's Forum; and



69 WHEREAS, during her career, Ms. Junior was an exemplary and
70 dedicated employee to the State of Mississippi and specifically as
71 Director of the Two Mississippi Museums, and her knowledge, skill
72 and strenuous laboriousness will be dearly missed by all of her
73 colleagues and others who were lucky enough to have the
74 opportunity to work with her and experience her greatness; and

75 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
76 and commend the tireless devotion to the betterment of Mississippi
77 and honor the ardent vow to impeccable service that Ms. Pamela
78 D.C. Junior provided as the Director of the Two Mississippi
79 Museums:

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
81 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
82 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the distinguished career and
83 meritorious leadership of Ms. Pamela D.C. Junior upon the occasion
84 of her retirement as the Director of the Two Mississippi Museums
85 and extend to her our most sincere wishes for continued success
86 and joy in the lighter days ahead.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
88 furnished to Ms. Pamela D.C. Junior and to the members of the
89 Capitol Press Corps.

