

By: Representatives Felsher, Bennett, Eure,  
Haney, Grady, McKnight

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 15

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING HARRISON COUNTY  
2 SHERIFF TROY J. PETERSON UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM  
3 THE HARRISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE AFTER 29 YEARS OF SELFLESS  
4 SERVICE.

5 WHEREAS, Harrison County Sheriff, Mr. Troy J. Peterson, an  
6 exemplary public servant, is retiring from the Harrison County  
7 Sheriff's Office, hanging up his gun and badge, after dedicating  
8 29 years of illustrious service and devotion to the citizens of  
9 Harrison County and the State of Mississippi; and

10 WHEREAS, Sheriff Peterson received his associate degree in  
11 criminal justice from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and  
12 furthered his education at the University of Southern Mississippi,  
13 where he received his bachelor of science degree in criminal  
14 justice; and

15 WHEREAS, before joining the Harrison County Sheriff's Office,  
16 Sheriff Peterson was part of another elite fraternity of men and  
17 women in the United States Army, where he was an infantryman and  
18 served as a specialist and was assigned as the Unit Armorer, and  
19 he was stationed in Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, from 1989 until



20 1992, where he conducted military operations primarily in the Asia  
21 Pacific Region; and

22 WHEREAS, Sheriff Peterson joined the Harrison County  
23 Sheriff's Office in 1994 and served as a deputy in the Corrections  
24 and Patrol Divisions until he became a narcotics investigator in  
25 1998; and

26 WHEREAS, for the next 10 years, he bravely conducted  
27 narcotics investigations as a member of the Narcotics Division,  
28 the Coastal Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET) and the United  
29 States Drug Enforcement Administration, HIDTA Divisions, and as a  
30 Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team operator, he participated  
31 in the disrupting and dismantling of drug organizations  
32 responsible for trafficking narcotics across the United States and  
33 into the southern region of Mississippi; and

34 WHEREAS, in 2008, he was promoted to Captain Peterson, and  
35 became responsible for the daily operations of the Narcotics  
36 Division and CNET, including 24 sworn officers as well as civilian  
37 personnel, and he also attended the United States Drug Enforcement  
38 Drug Unit Commander Academy in Quantico, Virginia; and

39 WHEREAS, Mr. Troy J. Peterson became the Sheriff of Harrison  
40 County in 2016, and through that role, he was responsible for  
41 daily operations at the Harrison County Sheriff's Office and the  
42 Harrison County Adult Detention Center; he managed a 26.7 million  
43 dollar budget; and he was responsible for legislative and  
44 governmental affairs, contributed to strategic planning and



45 developed and maintained productive relationships with all levels  
46 of government; and

47 WHEREAS, as the head of the Harrison County Sheriff's Office,  
48 Sheriff Peterson faced dangerous, deadly situations every day that  
49 demanded he put his life on the line, but every time the call  
50 came, he fearlessly and bravely rushed into perilous predicaments  
51 and courageously fought the most threatening people, places and  
52 happenings to ensure safety for the citizens of Mississippi, who  
53 will be forever grateful for his intrepid, noble efforts; and

54 WHEREAS, the longevity of Sheriff Peterson's career has been  
55 marked with notable accomplishments and awards, including the Law  
56 Enforcement Coordinator Lifetime Achievement Award by the  
57 Mississippi Coast Crime Stoppers in 2019; the Service of Duty  
58 Award in 2008 and the HIDTA Office of the Year Award in 2019, both  
59 by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration; the  
60 Distinguished Service Award by the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics  
61 in 2015; the Outstanding Narcotics Officer of the Year Award by  
62 the Harrison County Sheriff's Office in 1999; and the Army  
63 Achievement Medal by the United States Army in 1990 and 1991; and

64 WHEREAS, Sheriff Peterson has also filled a number of  
65 leadership roles during his tenure, including serving on the  
66 Oversight Commission for Corrections as the Lieutenant Governor's  
67 appointment; Vice President of the Mississippi Sheriff's  
68 Association; Vice President of the Mississippi Association of Drug



69 Enforcement Officers; and Commissioner of the Mississippi Wireless  
70 Communications Commission; and

71 WHEREAS, in his spare time, Sheriff Peterson is a member of  
72 Holy Family Catholic Church, OUPV Boat Captain and the Revelers  
73 Carnival Association; and

74 WHEREAS, Sheriff Peterson has been an exceptional sheriff and  
75 meritorious leader to the people of the Harrison County Sheriff's  
76 Office and throughout this great state, and his indomitable grit,  
77 dexterous abilities and passionate determination will be dearly  
78 missed by all of his colleagues and others who were fortunate to  
79 have the privileged opportunity to work with him and experience  
80 his greatness; and

81 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
82 pay tribute to fine, heroic Mississippians such as Harrison County  
83 Sheriff Troy J. Peterson, a man consumed with a selfless drive to  
84 help others and whose outstanding leadership, dauntless fortitude  
85 and unwavering duty to protect and serve the people of Mississippi  
86 are truly appreciated and will never be forgotten:

87 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
88 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
89 commend and congratulate Harrison County Sheriff Troy J. Peterson  
90 upon the occasion of his retirement from the Harrison County  
91 Sheriff's Office after 29 years of selfless service and extend  
92 heartiest wishes for success in all his future endeavors.



93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
94 furnished to Sheriff Troy J. Peterson and to the members of the  
95 Capitol Press Corps.

