

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.

