

By: Representative Harness

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 122

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LEGACY AND SUCCESS OF ARTHUR "MR.
2 D" DAVIS AND THE WORLD RENOWN OLD COUNTRY STORE IN LORMAN,
3 MISSISSIPPI, IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CAPACITIES AS MISSISSIPPI
4 AMBASSADORS.

5 WHEREAS, in 1996, at the age of 50, retired and living
6 comfortably with his wife, Margie, in his home state of Florida,
7 Mr. Arthur Davis drove to Lorman, Mississippi, to deliver a car to
8 his sons, Arthur Jr., and Derrick, who were attending Alcorn State
9 University on full academic scholarship, and upon experiencing the
10 serendipitous charm of the quaint college town, made the decision
11 to make it his forever home; and

12 WHEREAS, "Mr. D," as he is affectionately called, describes
13 his unexpected, yet unyielding attachment to the state as being
14 equivalent to getting "Mississippi mud in my shoes and it stuck,"
15 a toehold that has rewarded him time and time again, as a one of
16 the state's most prominent ambassadors of hospitality; and

17 WHEREAS, admittedly, Davis was apprehensive about
18 Mississippi, despite sending his scholar sons to attend school
19 here, but those misconceptions were quickly dispelled by the charm



20 and beauty of the quaint southwestern community along the Highway
21 61 corridor, which brought with it, Mr. D's irrefutable presence
22 as a mainstay upon his purchase of the "Old Country Store"; and

23 WHEREAS, a two-story building constructed circa 1875,
24 consisting of 5,000 square feet on each level, the "Old Country
25 Store" has fulfilled a lot of purpose during its storied history
26 prior to Davis' establishing it as a restaurant that proffers a
27 proper presentation of Southern cuisine, including serving as a
28 post office, Western Union office, bus depot, train station,
29 telephone office, craft mall, ballroom, Louisiana-style restaurant
30 and a bank; and

31 WHEREAS, since its acquisition by the "Singing Chef," another
32 affectionate moniker of endearment by which Mr. D is referenced,
33 the "Old Country Store" has been profiled by the *Food Network's*
34 culinary virtuoso, Alton Brown, in a 2011 feature in which he
35 hailed the restaurateur's fried chicken as "the best I've ever had
36 in my life," replete with other buffet offering of mustard greens,
37 collard greens, candied yams, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese,
38 pork chops, smoked ribs, potato salad, green salad, cornbread,
39 biscuits and three fruit cobblers (apple, peach and blackberry);
40 and

41 WHEREAS, full of faith, which he is big on acknowledging the
42 divine intervention of in directing his path to Mississippi,
43 complete with his maternal grandmother's, Elnora Adkins, recipes
44 and wisdom for navigating life, Mr. D has transformed the business



45 he initially started as a fast-food joint more than two decades
46 ago, frying his world-famous chicken in a skillet, while
47 supplementing his retirement income as a car salesman in
48 Vicksburg, into a dining experience of a lifetime, which has
49 titillated the tastebuds of passersby and travelers the world
50 over, from the domestic reaches of Maine, Arizona, Texas and
51 Nevada to the international soils of Germany, China, England,
52 Sweden and Australia; and

53 WHEREAS, self-described as the unofficial, "welcome center
54 for Windsor Ruins," Mr. D's "Old Country Store" has served up more
55 than just meals in its chronology, including serving as a safe
56 haven in 2005 for some 28 hurricane evacuees seeking refuge after
57 Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, as well as the collegiate dive for
58 Thursday night parties for some 200 Alcorn students, whose
59 frequent get togethers kept the business afloat during leaner
60 times; and

61 WHEREAS, Mr. D's inviting personality, seasoned perfectly
62 with the gift of gab, has served as the secret recipe to his
63 success, as he meets no strangers, occasionally treating customers
64 to a spontaneous and soulful bluesy tune, which has become
65 synonymous with the "Old Country Store" dining experience; and

66 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
67 commend the excellence of extraordinary individuals of Mr. Davis'
68 caliber, whose choice to make Mississippi home and invest in its



69 economy, one plate at a time, has become a cultural phenomenon of
70 southwest Mississippi:

71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
72 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
73 commend the legacy and success of Arthur "Mr. D" Davis and the
74 world renown "Old Country Store" in Lorman, Mississippi, in their
75 respective capacities as Mississippi ambassadors and extend best
76 wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
78 furnished to Arthur "Mr. D" Davis and to the members of the
79 Capitol Press Corps.

