

By: Representatives Ford (54th), Denton,
Harness

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 11

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE RICH AND HISTORICAL LEGACY OF THE
2 CITY OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, AND CONGRATULATING THE CITY UPON
3 THE OCCASION OF ITS BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY, ACKNOWLEDGING 200
4 YEARS OF HISTORY AND PROGRESS.

5 WHEREAS, incorporated on January 29, 1825, the City of
6 Vicksburg, Mississippi, celebrates its Bicentennial Anniversary on
7 January 29, 2025, marking 200 years of historical, cultural and
8 economic significance as a vital part of Mississippi's heritage;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, strategically located along the Mississippi River,
11 Vicksburg has played an integral role in the historical, economic,
12 and residential development of the state, quickly becoming a
13 center for commerce, agriculture, and transportation in the early
14 19th century; and

15 WHEREAS, in the 19th century, river travel along the
16 Mississippi was fraught with danger due to treacherous conditions,
17 prompting federal intervention with the passage of the Steamboat
18 Act of 1838, though the law proved difficult to enforce; and



19 WHEREAS, recognizing the need for enhanced transportation,
20 Vicksburg became a pioneering hub for railroads in Mississippi,
21 with the establishment of the Vicksburg and Clinton Railroad in
22 1831, later expanded into the Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad, the
23 first east-west rail line linking Memphis and New Orleans; and

24 WHEREAS, Vicksburg is renowned for its critical role in
25 American history, particularly as a focal point of the Civil War,
26 where the 1863 Siege of Vicksburg proved to be a turning point in
27 the Union's effort to control the Mississippi River; and

28 WHEREAS, following the surrender of Confederate forces on
29 July 4, 1863, the city endured hardship during Reconstruction but
30 emerged resilient, rebuilding its levee systems, reviving
31 agricultural production, and witnessing a rebirth of the steamboat
32 industry; and

33 WHEREAS, in 1899, the United States Congress established the
34 Vicksburg National Military Park, preserving the site of the
35 historic siege and serving as a national monument to those who
36 fought in the Civil War, with 17,000 Union soldiers, including
37 13,000 unknown, laid to rest within its grounds; and

38 WHEREAS, in 1873, the Army Corps of Engineers established a
39 permanent presence in Vicksburg, leading to the city's
40 long-standing prominence in river management and flood control
41 efforts, which remain vital to the region's economy and
42 infrastructure today; and



43 WHEREAS, the shifting course of the Mississippi River in 1876
44 threatened Vicksburg's economy, but through federal and local
45 efforts, including the Yazoo River Diversion Project, the city
46 re-established itself as a thriving river port and continued its
47 economic development into the 20th and 21st centuries; and

48 WHEREAS, today, Vicksburg stands as a vibrant city that
49 embraces its historical legacy while fostering economic growth,
50 cultural enrichment, and tourism, serving as a premier destination
51 for visitors seeking to explore its museums, historical landmarks,
52 and riverfront attractions; and

53 WHEREAS, on the occasion of its Bicentennial, the City of
54 Vicksburg, under the leadership of its Mayor and Board of
55 Aldermen, will celebrate 200 years of perseverance, progress and
56 contributions to the State of Mississippi and the nation; and

57 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
58 recognize and honor municipalities such as Vicksburg, which have
59 played a pivotal role in shaping the history and culture of
60 Mississippi:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
62 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
63 commend the rich and historical legacy of the City of Vicksburg,
64 congratulate the city upon the occasion of its Bicentennial
65 Anniversary, acknowledging 200 years of excellence, and extend
66 best wishes for continued prosperity in the years to come.



67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
68 furnished to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of
69 Vicksburg and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

