

By: Representative Hale

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 78

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HONORABLE AND DISTINGUISHED
2 FORMER REPRESENTATIVE WANDA JENNINGS FOR HER ESTEEMED AND LAUDABLE
3 LEGISLATIVE CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICE.

4 WHEREAS, the honorable and distinguished former
5 Representative Wanda Jennings of Southaven, Mississippi, served in
6 the Mississippi House of Representatives for eighteen years,
7 during which time she tirelessly worked on behalf of the citizens
8 of Mississippi and her constituents in DeSoto County; and

9 WHEREAS, before assuming her seat as the member of the House
10 of Representatives from District 7, Representative Jennings
11 received her formal education from Memphis State University and
12 established herself as a pillar of her community through her
13 impressive career as a devoted educator and adept businesswoman;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Jennings was first elected to the
16 Mississippi House of Representatives in 1997 after displaying an
17 incomparable work ethic and commitment to improving the quality of



18 life and opportunities for success for the residents of DeSoto
19 County during her campaign; and

20 WHEREAS, upon entering the hallowed halls of the Mississippi
21 State Capitol in 1998 when she began her legislative service,
22 Representative Jennings wasted no time requesting the legislation,
23 amendments, and reports that would help effectuate into law the
24 ideologies and policy changes that her DeSoto County constituents
25 had elected her to further; and

26 WHEREAS, motivated by her determination to expand business
27 opportunities for her community, Representative Jennings authored
28 landmark legislation that removed the tax on logistics warehouses,
29 the repeal of which led to 10,000 new jobs in DeSoto County and
30 brought in more than \$5 billion in private capital investment, and
31 her efforts helped to establish DeSoto County as the logistics
32 warehouse capital of North Mississippi; and

33 WHEREAS, friends and foes alike have acknowledged the pivotal
34 role Representative Jennings played in changing the public
35 perception of DeSoto County while in office through the practice
36 of her own special brand of "living room diplomacy," exemplified
37 by the gathering of current and aspiring Mississippi political
38 figures she hosted each year in her Southaven home; and

39 WHEREAS, during her time in the Legislature, Representative
40 Jennings became a skilled master at highlighting DeSoto County's
41 best features by effectively focusing the attention of her fellow
42 lawmakers on the unique experiences the region has to offer, often



43 enticing her colleagues to spend time in her district by
44 orchestrating guided bus tours around the county and providing
45 Zamboni rides on the ice at a Mississippi RiverKings hockey game;
46 and

47 WHEREAS, Representative Jennings made political history in
48 2012 when she was appointed as the first female Chairman of the
49 Military Affairs Committee in the Mississippi House of
50 Representatives, signifying her dedication to the courageous men
51 and women who heroically defend our country, and in her ceaseless
52 love for and loyalty to her country, she brought two National
53 Guard units to DeSoto County; and

54 WHEREAS, Representative Jennings used her political savvy and
55 experience to guide her in her duties as Vice Chairman of the
56 Republican Caucus, Vice Chairman of the State Libraries Committee,
57 and a member of the Apportionment and Elections, Appropriations,
58 Congressional Redistricting, Education, Ethics, Fees and Salaries
59 of Public Officers, Judiciary A, Judiciary En Banc, Legislative
60 Reapportionment, Rules, Workforce Development, and Youth and
61 Family Affairs Committees; and

62 WHEREAS, throughout the years, Representative Jennings has
63 showcased her abundant wisdom and leadership skills as a member of
64 the DeSoto County Republican Women, the Secretary of the DeSoto
65 County Republican Party, a member of the Board of Directors for
66 the DeSoto Republican Club, the Director of the Olive Branch



67 Community Theater, and a member of the Southaven Chamber of
68 Commerce; and

69 WHEREAS, the hard work and long hours required of
70 Representative Jennings in her prestigious role in the Legislature
71 was only made possible through the support, encouragement, and
72 love of her late husband of 55 years, Terry Jennings; as well as
73 their son Eric Jennings (Kristy); their daughter, Heath Jennings
74 (David Beal); and their four wonderful grandchildren: Morgan,
75 Wendi, Drew, and Chase; and

76 WHEREAS, Representative Jennings embodies the attitude of a
77 dedicated public servant, a tireless advocate, and a wonderful
78 friend, and through it all, this remarkable woman has remained
79 grounded in her strong faith and integrity and sought to improve
80 the lives of others through positive example and hard work; and

81 WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the House of
82 Representatives recognize and honor the remarkable service and
83 meritorious leadership of our friend and former colleague,
84 Representative Wanda Jennings, who represented her district, this
85 body, and the people of Mississippi with honor and dignity in the
86 House of Representatives and continues to graciously serve her
87 community through her civic contributions:

88 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
89 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
90 commend the most honorable and distinguished former Representative
91 Wanda Jennings for her esteemed and laudable legislative career



92 and public service and extend to her heartfelt wishes for only the
93 best for many years to come.

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
95 furnished to former Representative Wanda Jennings and to the
96 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

