

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



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

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

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

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Representative Jennings has  
showcased her abundant wisdom and leadership skills as a member of  
the DeSoto County Republican Women, the Secretary of the DeSoto  
County Republican Party, a member of the Board of Directors for  
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.

