

By: Representative Foster

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 83

1 A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE ISLA TULLOS UPON  
2 HER RETIREMENT AND COMMENDING HER FOR 28 YEARS OF DEDICATED PUBLIC  
3 SERVICE AS THE MAYOR OF RAYMOND, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, the Honorable Isla Tullos, Mayor of the City of  
5 Raymond, Mississippi, is retiring from her position at the helm of  
6 city leadership after 28 extraordinary years of dedicated public  
7 service; and

8 WHEREAS, first elected in 1997 after tossing her hat into the  
9 ring at the urging of two local aldermen, Mayor Tullos won her  
10 office offering citizens a vision of the Raymond she saw the then-  
11 stagnant city had the potential to become; and

12 WHEREAS, while Mayor Tullos was anxious to undertake  
13 beautification and historic preservation projects that would have  
14 been immediate signs of progress to the townsfolk, her first  
15 priority after taking office was to tackle critical infrastructure  
16 projects desperately needed, such as the drilling of a deeper  
17 water well for cleaner water, extending water lines and making  
18 sewer system upgrades; and



19 WHEREAS, with the city's fundamental infrastructure needs  
20 being greatly improved, Mayor Tullos put to use her planning and  
21 organizational skills to lead the quaint town in ongoing efforts  
22 to improve its aesthetics, a focus that actually had begun a few  
23 years before Mayor Tullos assumed office when she and her husband,  
24 Max, purchased an early 1800's dilapidated building on the town  
25 square and transformed the structure into a masterpiece of a home  
26 complete with a courtyard and stunning gardens; and

27 WHEREAS, one of Mayor Tullos's earliest beautification and  
28 historic preservation projects was the transformation of what some  
29 may have considered an eyesore, a rare 1905 Chicago Bridge and  
30 Iron Company metal water tank right in the center of the town  
31 square, which is now designated an official Mississippi Landmark,  
32 surrounded by meticulously maintained plants in a garden-like  
33 setting; and

34 WHEREAS, throughout her seven terms of office, Mayor Tullos  
35 has been at the forefront of efforts to preserve Raymond's  
36 history, and in 1998, in order to purchase a local Confederate  
37 battlefield, she and six others established Friends of Raymond,  
38 Inc., a nonprofit preservation group comprised solely of  
39 volunteers which continues to this day to actively work with the  
40 City of Raymond and other local entities to preserve the area's  
41 rich history and coordinate historic preservation efforts; and

42 WHEREAS, to help cement official recognition of the city's  
43 historical significance by its own residents and visitors alike,



44 Mayor Tullos led the board of aldermen in adopting policies and  
45 securing various designations in furtherance of preservation  
46 efforts in Raymond, including the implementation of comprehensive  
47 zoning regulations, developed in conjunction with the Mississippi  
48 Planning and Development District in 2002, and in 2003, the  
49 establishment of the Historic Preservation Commission, the  
50 Heritage Overlay District approved by the Mississippi Department  
51 of Archives and History, and the Raymond Historic District, listed  
52 on the National Register of Historic Districts, as well as  
53 achieving Certified Local Government Status under the National  
54 Historic Preservation Act by the National Park Service, United  
55 States Department of the Interior; and

56 WHEREAS, Mayor Tullos spearheaded other activities which  
57 showcased the beauty of the small town while engendering a sense  
58 of pride and community among Raymond's residents, including a  
59 pilgrimage of homes, churches and other historic properties, a  
60 celebration of the iconic 100-year-old water tower, and a  
61 celebration marking the city's 175th birthday; and

62 WHEREAS, the high quality of life and beauty the City of  
63 Raymond has to offer has not gone unnoticed, and in 2004, the city  
64 was recognized as a Designated 2004 Preserve America Community in  
65 honor of its commitment to preserving and using its cultural and  
66 natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, in  
67 addition to receiving a letter and certificate of commendation  
68 from United States First Lady Laura Bush; and



69 WHEREAS, other honors the city received during Mayor Tullos's  
70 tenure include its 2009 recognition by the Governor's Community  
71 Projects of Excellence Awards Program as the BEST Small  
72 Municipalities and Limited Population Counties Project and a 2016  
73 National Association of Development Organizations (NADO)  
74 Innovation Award for the project "The City of Raymond City Hall  
75 and Courtroom Renovations"; and

76 WHEREAS, Mayor Tullos, designated a Graduate of the Certified  
77 Municipal Official Course, Professional Development Level, by the  
78 Mississippi Municipal League and past president of the Metro  
79 Mayors Association, served as the 2006-2007 President of the Board  
80 of Trustees of the Mississippi Heritage Trust, which fittingly  
81 selected Mayor Tullos as the recipient of its 2022 Heritage Award  
82 for Distinguished Service; and

83 WHEREAS, devout in her faith, Mayor Tullos has served many  
84 years as a Warden at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Raymond; and

85 WHEREAS, Mayor Tullos, who considers her 28 years as Mayor of  
86 Raymond her "entry and departure into politics," admits having a  
87 passion for Raymond, and over her nearly three decades in office,  
88 she has phenomenally not only preserved the city but shaped it  
89 into a special place -- a "best-kept secret" according to  
90 residents -- one where, in her own words, there is "a warm,  
91 loving, diverse bunch of people ... in a safe place to live ...  
92 [with] all the wonderful assets of a large city and still



93 [offering] the peace and quiet of small-town-in-the-country  
94 living"; and

95 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
96 recognize and pay tribute to outstanding Mississippians,  
97 especially those such as Mayor Isla Tullos, whose long and  
98 distinguished selfless public service to the City of Raymond has  
99 enriched the lives of her fellow citizens and community, bringing  
100 honor not only to the City of Raymond but also the entire State of  
101 Mississippi:

102 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
103 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
104 congratulate the Honorable Isla Tullos upon her retirement and  
105 commend her for 28 years of dedicated public service as the Mayor  
106 of the City of Raymond, Mississippi.

107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do hereby extend our  
108 sincerest wishes to Mayor Tullos for every success in all her  
109 future endeavors.

110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
111 furnished to Mayor Isla Tullos and to the members of the Capitol  
112 Press Corps.

