

By: Senator(s) Michel, Blackmon, Kirby,  
McCaughn, Thomas

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 536

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO  
2 HOLMES COUNTY POLL WORKER FREDDIE ANN BYRD FARMER WHO HAS SERVED  
3 OVER 69 CONSECUTIVE YEARS IN THIS ROLE AS THE "FRONTLINE OF  
4 DEMOCRACY."

5 WHEREAS, as the nation and electors in the State of  
6 Mississippi vote, it is natural to focus on candidates, policies  
7 and outcomes of the elections. Yet, behind every successful  
8 election are millions of dedicated election professionals and poll  
9 workers who make democracy possible. They are often volunteers  
10 who rise to the occasion to serve their communities, ensuring that  
11 every eligible voter has the opportunity to make his or her voice  
12 heard; and

13 WHEREAS, as we reflect on the importance of free and fair  
14 elections, we honor and thank Holmes County Poll Worker Freddie  
15 Ann Byrd Farmer, who has served behind the scenes, ensuring that  
16 our voices are heard and our democracy remains strong; and

17 WHEREAS, during her years of working and raising her family,  
18 Freddie Ann Byrd Farmer also served her county as a poll worker.  
19 She grew up going to the Lexington Courthouse at night with her



20 father where the votes were counted. This instilled in her a  
21 strong desire to serve her county in the election process. She  
22 began working at the polls in West at the age of 21 and has  
23 continued to do so for 69 years. She plans to retire and campaign  
24 for her favorite candidates in the future; and

25 WHEREAS, Freddie Ann Byrd Farmer was born in the Brozville  
26 Community of Holmes County near Lexington, Mississippi, on March  
27 14, 1935. Freddie Ann finished high school in 1954. She managed  
28 the Ben Franklin store in Lexington for two and one-half years  
29 before marrying Melvin Farmer in 1957. She worked at the  
30 Kickernick Factory in Holmes County for 15 years and then became  
31 the City Clerk in West. She held this position for two years. In  
32 1970, Mrs. Farmer went to work for the US Postal Service,  
33 eventually becoming the Officer in Charge at the West and Pickens  
34 Post Offices. She retired from the postal service after 26 years  
35 to take care of her grandchildren. The role of grandmother is her  
36 most cherished role; and

37 WHEREAS, election poll workers play a pivotal role in  
38 upholding the fabric of democracy through their dedication,  
39 resilience and service to their communities. Our election  
40 professionals and volunteer poll workers are shining examples of  
41 nonpartisan cooperation that puts our democracy and country first.  
42 They come together each election cycle to help their community  
43 vote; and



44 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we celebrate the  
45 contributions of this dedicated public servant who has made our  
46 elections possible in Mississippi:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
48 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
49 we do hereby commend and pay tribute to Holmes County Poll Worker  
50 Freddie Ann Byrd Farmer who has served over 69 consecutive years  
51 in this role as the "Frontline of Democracy."

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
53 Poll Worker Freddie Ann Byrd Farmer at a ceremony at the State  
54 Capitol, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

