

By: Senator(s) Boyd, Frazier, Michel,  
Seymour, Sparks, Barnett

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE EXTENSIVE CAREER AND PUBLIC  
2 SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE ARLIN C. "COTTON" RUTHVEN OF OXFORD,  
3 MISSISSIPPI LAW RESEARCH SENIOR RESEARCH COUNSEL AND DECORATED  
4 VIETNAM COMBAT VETERAN, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

5 WHEREAS, we join the Mississippi Law Research Institute and  
6 The University of Mississippi School of Law in recognizing the  
7 legal career and public service of Arlin C. "Cotton" Ruthven on  
8 the occasion of his retirement; and

9 WHEREAS, Cotton Ruthven, a native of Neshoba County,  
10 Mississippi, received a Bachelor of Science degree from the United  
11 States Military Academy at West Point in 1967, provided  
12 distinguished service to his country as an Infantryman during the  
13 Vietnam War, rising to the rank of Company Commander, 1st Air  
14 Cavalry Division, and earning notable honors that include the  
15 Silver Star, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Bronze  
16 Star with "V" Device; and

17 WHEREAS, Cotton Ruthven retired from the Armed Forces in 1972  
18 and has remained a steadfast supporter of veterans organizations,  
19 as an advocate, board member and officer; and



20 WHEREAS, Cotton Ruthven, after receiving a degree of Juris  
21 Doctorate from The University of Mississippi School of Law in  
22 1976, served as Law Clerk to Chief Justices Robert G. Gillespie,  
23 Neville Patterson and Harry G. Walker of the Supreme Court of the  
24 State of Mississippi and became an associate at the law firm of  
25 Thompson, Alexander & Crews and subsequently a partner at Waller &  
26 Waller, Attorneys at Law; and

27 WHEREAS, Cotton Ruthven joined the Mississippi Law Research  
28 Institute of The University of Mississippi School of Law in 1990  
29 as Senior Research Counsel and served in that position for over 30  
30 years until his retirement in 2024, providing vital research  
31 assistance and advice to the Mississippi Legislature; and

32 WHEREAS, in recognition of Cotton Ruthven's service to the  
33 United States and to the State of Mississippi as a United States  
34 Army officer, as a champion of veterans, and as a lawyer and  
35 counsel to the Mississippi Law Research Institute, The University  
36 of Mississippi School of Law and the Mississippi Legislature, we  
37 recognize and give thanks for the legacy of a dedicated public  
38 servant in promotion of justice and the rule of law in the State  
39 of Mississippi and express our admiration, respect and deepest  
40 gratitude for his service:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
42 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the  
43 Mississippi Senate to Cotton Ruthven, Esquire, on the occasion of  
44 his retirement from his long tenure as Research Counsel to the



45 Mississippi Law Research Institute of The University of  
46 Mississippi School of Law and commend his distinguished career of  
47 effective public service.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
49 Cotton Ruthven and his family, forwarded to William Wilkins,  
50 Director of the Mississippi Law Research Institute, and to  
51 Frederick Slabach, Dean of The University of Mississippi School of  
52 Law, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

