

By: Senator(s) Fillingane, Blackmon,
England, McLendon, Michel

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING CHIEF JOHN B. POPE III FOR HIS
2 DISTINGUISHED AND HONORABLE SERVICE AS THE LONGEST-SERVING ELECTED
3 PRESIDENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION IN ITS
4 PROUD 101-YEAR HISTORY.

5 WHEREAS, Chief John B. Pope III Fire Chief of Collins,
6 Mississippi, served honorably and with distinction as the
7 President of the Mississippi Firefighter's Association for six
8 consecutive terms of office from June 2, 2012, until June 1, 2024;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Firefighter's Association was
11 established and began its work on behalf of the Firefighters of
12 the State of Mississippi on February 15, 1923; and

13 WHEREAS, since its creation, the Mississippi Firefighter's
14 Association's mission is to establish harmony of action in the
15 cultivation of professional development and to work with various
16 agencies to help ensure fire protection and prevention for all
17 citizens while promoting the best interests of the fire service in
18 the State of Mississippi and the nation; and



19 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Firefighter's Association elects its
20 President and other Officers to serve a term of office, by a
21 majority vote of its members and delegates at its annual
22 conference held each summer; and

23 WHEREAS, Chief John B. Pope III was first elected to serve as
24 a District Vice-President for the Southeastern District of the
25 state in 2007, representing Clark, Covington, Forrest, Greene,
26 Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Perry, Smith, and Wayne Counties on the
27 association's executive board for four terms; and

28 WHEREAS, Pope was elected to serve as the association's first
29 Vice-President statewide in 2010, serving in that post for two
30 terms; and

31 WHEREAS, in 2012, Chief Pope was nominated and elected
32 unopposed, as the President of the Mississippi Fire Firefighter's
33 Association, and at that same time, a motion from the floor by the
34 membership body was approved and passed, naming Pope as the first
35 President nominated and elected to serve in a new two-year term of
36 office; and

37 WHEREAS, Chief John B. Pope III was re-elected as President
38 of the Mississippi Firefighter's Association with overwhelming
39 support for six total two-year terms, for a length of service as
40 President for 12 years and 18 years on its Executive Board, and
41 proudly served as its President and led the celebration of its
42 100th Anniversary in 2023; and



43 WHEREAS, during his 12 years as President, Chief Pope was an
44 effective leader, fostering the association to increase its
45 membership. He worked to more than triple the association's
46 attendance at annual conferences and to guide it into becoming
47 more financially stable. Chief Pope worked together with members
48 to strengthen the association's overall effectiveness and benefits
49 for years to come; and

50 WHEREAS, Chief Pope has maintained a very active and engaged
51 presence within the areas of both state and national politics. He
52 has lobbied for and promoted the passage of numerous key and
53 critical pieces of legislation, including the increase of the
54 Mississippi Firefighter's & Law Enforcement Officer's Death
55 Benefit Trust Fund, Construction & Facility Enhancements at the
56 Mississippi State Fire Academy, the Mississippi Length of Service
57 Award Program, and numerous other legislation items to support the
58 firefighters, fire service and citizens of the state; and

59 WHEREAS, Chief John B. Pope III has the esteemed distinction
60 and honor of being the longest-serving elected President in the
61 over 101-year history of the Mississippi Firefighter's
62 Association; and

63 WHEREAS, Chief Pope continues in his service to the
64 Mississippi Firefighter's Association on its Executive Board as
65 Past-President of the association, lending his knowledge,
66 experience, and abilities to continue to support and assist the
67 association, its board and members in any way he can; and



68 WHEREAS, in recognition of his 12 years of distinguished and
69 honorable service as the President of the Mississippi
70 Firefighter's Association, in sincere appreciation for the
71 important part that he has played and continues to play in
72 representing and moving Mississippi's fire services forward, and
73 because Chief John B. Pope III exemplifies himself as a selfless
74 servant through his dedication and service to the members of the
75 Mississippi Firefighter's Association, the citizens of his
76 community, and to the citizens of the Great State of Mississippi,
77 a grateful state thanks him heartily:

78 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
79 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Chief John B. Pope III for
80 his distinguished and honorable service as the longest-serving
81 elected President of the Mississippi Firefighter's Association in
82 its proud 101-year history and extend our best wishes to John and
83 his family for future success.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
85 John B. Pope III and his family, forwarded to the Mississippi
86 Firefighter's Association and made available to the Capitol Press
87 Corp.

