

By: Senator(s) McCaughn, Boyd

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 100

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING ASSISTANT SENIOR
2 DEPUTY OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH MELISSA WHITE
3 PARKER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT AFTER 34 CONSECUTIVE
4 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE STATE OF
5 MISSISSIPPI.

6 WHEREAS, Melissa White Parker has announced she will retire
7 from her position as Assistant Senior Deputy of the Mississippi
8 State Department of Health effective after the 2025 Regular
9 Session of the Legislature; and

10 WHEREAS, Melissa White Parker has been employed by the
11 Mississippi State Department of Health since June 1, 1991; and

12 WHEREAS, beginning her career with the Department of Health
13 in June of 1991, Melissa was a Health Physicist in Radiological
14 Health and later transferred to the Bureau of Public Water Supply
15 as a Waterworks Operator Instructor before being promoted to
16 Director of Compliance and Enforcement in 1999. In 2007, Melissa
17 was named Deputy Director of Water Supply, and in 2012, Deputy
18 Director of Environmental Health. In 2016, Melissa became
19 Director of the Office of Licensure and six years later the Office



of Health Protection Director, a position she held until assuming her present position as Assistant Senior Deputy in 2024; and

WHEREAS, in her various Department of Health roles, Melissa served in many leadership positions of state emergency response operations directly impacting assistance to thousands of Mississippians, including the recoveries from Hurricane Katrina, the April 28, 2014, Louisville EF-4 tornado, the Coronavirus pandemic, and the March 24, 2023, Rolling Fork-Silver City EF-4 and Amory EF-3 tornadoes; and

WHEREAS, Melissa's legacy of work to protect and promote the health of all Mississippians on behalf of the Department of Health has been exemplified by sound judgement, firm leadership, steadfast impartiality, consummate work ethic and superlative customer service, and she has given this most important state agency a statewide reputation for credibility and respect; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tupelo, Mississippi, a 1985 graduate of Tupelo High School, a 1990 graduate of the University of Mississippi, with a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, and a member of Phi Mu Sorority, Melissa is married to Tony Parker of Morton, Mississippi. They have two sons, Will and Charlie, and a daughter-in-law, Neely; and

WHEREAS, we are grateful for Melissa's legacy of service in state government and its impact on past, current and future generations of Mississippians:



44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
45 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Assistant
46 Senior Deputy of the Mississippi State Department of Health
47 Melissa White Parker on the occasion of her retirement after 34
48 consecutive years of dedicated public service, and wish her and
49 her husband, Tony, the best in their future endeavors.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
51 Melissa and her family, forwarded to the Mississippi State
52 Department of Health, and made available to the Capitol Press
53 Corps.

