

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Harkins, Frazier,
Hopson, McCaughn, Michel, Rhodes, Whaley

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND CONSIDERABLE
2 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HONORABLE MAYOR GARY
3 RHOADS OF FLOWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, we join the citizens of Flowood, Mississippi, in
5 recognizing the outstanding leadership and economic development
6 accomplishments of longtime Mayor Gary Rhoads; and

7 WHEREAS, after 36 years of dedicated service, Flowood Mayor
8 Gary Rhoads is announcing his decision to retire and not seek
9 re-election. First elected on June 6, 1989, Rhoads has been a
10 steadfast leader for the City of Flowood, having also served as
11 its Chief of Police from 1981 to 1989. Notably, as mayor, Rhoads
12 has faced no opposition, illustrating the community's faith in his
13 leadership abilities; and

14 WHEREAS, Mayor Rhoads has led Flowood through a remarkable
15 era of growth and development. Under his guidance, the city has
16 consistently maintained one of the lowest millage rates in the
17 region and has successfully completed transformative projects,
18 such as Dogwood Festival, Lakeland Commons, the Sheraton Hotel and



19 Conference Center, the Refuge Golf Course, and many innovative
20 healthcare facilities. These efforts have not only bolstered the
21 city's infrastructure but also created a vibrant community central
22 to Flowood's identity; and

23 WHEREAS, beyond his administrative achievements, Mayor Rhoads
24 has built and values relationships he has cultivated with
25 residents over the years. He often highlights how listening to
26 the community and engaging with its members have enriched his
27 understanding of public service. "I've been fortunate to serve
28 such wonderful citizens," he remarked, acknowledging the trust
29 they have placed in him; and

30 WHEREAS, Mayor Rhoads also recognizes the vital role played
31 by supportive boards of aldermen, which have been instrumental in
32 driving the city's progress and success; and

33 WHEREAS, Mayor Rhoads played a crucial role in establishing a
34 strong financial foundation for the city, by effectively managing
35 its reserves and debts; and

36 WHEREAS, Rhoads' commitment to public service is evident by
37 his active involvement on various state and local boards,
38 including the Mississippi Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Merit
39 Health River Oaks Board of Trustees, East Metro Access Parkway,
40 the Rankin Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District
41 and West Rankin Utility Authority. Through those roles, he has
42 advocated for policies benefiting both Flowood and Rankin and
43 Hinds counties; and



44 WHEREAS, as Mayor Rhoads prepares to step down, he looks
45 forward to spending more quality time with his wife Lydia, their
46 two children, and four active grandchildren. "It's time to slow
47 down and enjoy life with my family," he expressed, looking forward
48 to this new chapter. Reflecting on his career, Rhoads credits his
49 success to his unwavering faith and the support of the Flowood
50 community. He believes that prioritizing God has guided both his
51 personal and professional journey, as he leaves a legacy of
52 service, vision, and commitment. "As long as we continue to
53 prioritize community and faith, Flowood will continue to prosper":

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the public service and
56 considerable economic development accomplishments of the honorable
57 Mayor Gary Rhoads of Flowood, Mississippi, on the occasion of his
58 retirement, pay tribute to him for his enormous civic energy and
59 extend to the mayor and his family our best wishes for future
60 success.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
62 Mayor Gary Rhoads, forwarded to the Flowood Board of Aldermen and
63 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

