

By: Senator(s) Michel

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 154

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING HONORABLE WILLIAM
2 C. (CHAM) TROTTER III UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE 2025 UNIVERSITY
3 OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF LAW HALL OF FAME.

4 WHEREAS, the University of Mississippi School of Law honors
5 its Hall of Fame classes every spring during Law Weekend. The
6 Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding alumni of the law school who
7 have, through their professional achievements and/or service to
8 the school, brought honor to the law school. The selection
9 committee has chosen Honorable William C. (Cham) Trotter III of
10 Belzoni, Mississippi, among the alumni to be inducted into the
11 2025 class; and

12 WHEREAS, a native of Greenville, Cham Trotter practiced law
13 at Garrard & Trotter, PLLC, in Belzoni for more than 50 years. In
14 1969, he earned his degree in English from Ole Miss. As an
15 undergraduate, he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity
16 and participated with the Concert Singers and The Group.
17 Following graduation, he entered the University of Mississippi
18 School of Law, where he was a member of the class of 1972. During



19 his time as a law student, he was a member of the *Mississippi Law*
20 *Journal*; and

21 WHEREAS, following law school, Trotter began practicing law
22 in Belzoni. In 1980, he took up the job of Public Defender for
23 Humphreys County in Circuit Court and Youth Court. He also served
24 as Guardian ad Litem. In addition to being a lawyer, he had a
25 long career as a member of the Judiciary. Beginning in 1973, he
26 served continuously until his retirement as a Municipal Judge in
27 Belzoni, Louise, Silver City and Isola; and

28 WHEREAS, Trotter is a Life Member of the Mississippi Public
29 Defenders Association, serving as its first Secretary-Treasurer.
30 He was a charter member of the Mississippi Municipal Judges
31 Association and was its President in 1982. He is a Fellow and
32 former Director of the Mississippi Bar Foundation. He is also a
33 Fellow and Past President of The Mississippi Bar's Young Lawyers
34 Division. He is also a Benchler of the Charles Clark Inns of
35 Court. Following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, he served
36 a Supreme Court appointment as Special Circuit Judge for Jackson
37 County to hear and adjudicate hurricane damage claims; and

38 WHEREAS, long active with The Mississippi Bar, he has chaired
39 its Local Bar Liaison, Budget and Finance, Long Range Planning,
40 and Advertising Committees. He served on the Board of Bar
41 Commissioners and co-chaired the Mississippi Bar Centennial
42 Celebration Committee. Along with former Governor William Winter,
43 he also co-chaired the Mississippi Legal History Advisory Board,



44 and Trotter was Chairman of The Mississippi Bar Legal History
45 Committee. In addition, he served a term on the Board for the
46 Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project. He served on the Bar's
47 Ethics Committee, providing well over a decade of service and was
48 its Chairman in 2004; and

49 WHEREAS, Trotter is a member of the American Bar Association
50 and served from 2003-2011 as The Mississippi Bar's delegate to the
51 ABA House of Delegates. In 2014, he was re-elected to the House
52 of Delegates and served an additional seven years. In 2004, he
53 was elected a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and became a
54 Sustaining Life Member; and

55 WHEREAS, at the university, Trotter has served multiple terms
56 on the Ole Miss Alumni Association's Board of Directors and a term
57 on its Executive Committee. He is a past President of the Law
58 Alumni Chapter's Board of Directors and a past Chairman of the
59 Lamar Order; and

60 WHEREAS, for his tireless efforts on its Ethics Committee,
61 The Mississippi Bar presented Trotter its 1990 Distinguished
62 Service Award. As a frequent speaker in judicial education
63 programs, he has twice received the Mississippi Judicial College
64 Outstanding Faculty Award. In 2010, he was recognized by the
65 *Mississippi Business Journal* in its inaugural class as one of the
66 state's 50 leading attorneys. In 2015, the University of
67 Mississippi School of Law named him its Law Alumnus of the Year.



68 The Mississippi Bar presented him its 2023 Lifetime Achievement
69 Award; and

70 WHEREAS, after more than 50 years, Cham has fully retired
71 from his legal career in Belzoni. He and his wife, Jane, have
72 relocated to Ocean Springs. The Trotters boast a long lineage of
73 Ole Miss alumni reaching as far back as William Chamberlain
74 Trotter, Sr., and including children: Lisa Melton, Dr. John
75 Trotter and Dr. Germaine Gottsche, as well as a host of
76 grandchildren; and

77 WHEREAS, Cham has consistently lectured on professional
78 standards of the practice of law, including ethics, integrity,
79 civility, courtesy and adherence to the Golden Rule. His practice
80 has honored both The Mississippi Bar and this great state that he
81 loves and serves:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
83 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Honorable
84 William C. (Cham) Trotter III upon his induction into the 2025
85 University of Mississippi School of Law Hall of Fame, and extend
86 the best wishes of the Mississippi Senate to Cham and his family
87 on this high honor.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
89 Honorable Cham Trotter, forwarded to the Dean of the University of
90 Mississippi School of Law and The Mississippi Bar, and made
91 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

