

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 98  
(As Adopted by House and Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING PATRICIA OWENS FORDICE AS  
2 FIRST LADY OF MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, Patricia Owens Fordice, a native of Jackson,  
4 Mississippi, has been a source of unequivocal pride to our state  
5 as the gracious and lovely First Lady of Mississippi since January  
6 1992; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Fordice, refined and congenial, attended  
8 Christian College in Columbia, Missouri, and Memphis State  
9 University in Memphis, Tennessee; and

10 WHEREAS, on August 13, 1955, Patricia Owens was a beautiful  
11 bride when she and Kirk Fordice were united in Holy Matrimony;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in 1962, the young couple moved to Vicksburg, when  
14 Kirk joined the family business, Fordice Construction Company; and

15 WHEREAS, as First Lady of Mississippi, Mrs. Fordice has  
16 unselfishly played a significant role in promoting literacy, arts,  
17 health issues and strong family support although her primary focus  
18 has been volunteerism; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1996, Mrs. Fordice was dutifully recognized as  
20 Mississippi's Outstanding Philanthropist for her untiring efforts  
21 to establish a cultural, educational and enriching opportunity for  
22 the people of the United States by bringing the Palaces of St.  
23 Petersburg Russian Imperial Style art exhibit to Jackson; and

24 WHEREAS, for the tremendous role Mrs. Fordice cordially  
25 played in the St. Petersburg project, she was knighted by the  
26 Sovereign Order of the Orthodox Knights Hospitaller of Saint John

27 of Jerusalem, which is an active charitable organization whose  
28 members participate in its many humanitarian activities, such as  
29 helping the needy, the ill, and especially children and victims of  
30 natural calamities; and

31 WHEREAS, the hospitable and charming Mrs. Fordice was also  
32 instrumental in bringing to the Capital City the "Splendors of  
33 Versailles" exhibition, which the American Bus Association ranked  
34 as the number one attraction for 1998; and

35 WHEREAS, in preparation for these great cultural events, as  
36 well as to promote a litter-free Mississippi, Mrs. Fordice created  
37 a Splendors of Mississippi project, which was a statewide  
38 beautification and clean-up effort; and

39 WHEREAS, the adventurous First Lady's most recent endeavor  
40 was an outstanding tandem jump with the United States Army's most  
41 elite parachute team, the Golden Knights; and

42 WHEREAS, Mrs. Fordice, warm and loving, is not only a  
43 wonderful First Lady but a remarkable mother of four children and  
44 proud grandmother of ten grandchildren; and

45 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi finds it  
46 most appropriate to recognize and pay special tribute to such a  
47 distinguished and elegant woman as First Lady Patricia Owens  
48 Fordice, whose dedication to arts, education, health issues and  
49 the general welfare of all humanity has had an immeasurable impact  
50 on the citizens of the State of Mississippi:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
52 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
53 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Mrs. Patricia Owens Fordice as  
54 First Lady of the State of Mississippi and express to her our  
55 heartfelt appreciation for all that she has accomplished for the  
56 people of the State of Mississippi. Further, we hereby extend to  
57 First Lady Pat Fordice our heartiest wishes for success in all her  
58 future endeavors and many years of good health, peace, happiness  
59 and joy.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
61 furnished to Mrs. Patricia Owens Fordice and members of the  
62 Capitol Press Corps.