

By: Ellington

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 132

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING JAMES IRVIN PALMER, JR.,
2 THE FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
3 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED AND DEDICATED SERVICE
4 TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND FOR HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO
5 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION.

6 WHEREAS, James Irvin Palmer, Jr., the Executive Director of
7 the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, recently
8 retired from Mississippi state government after 26 years of
9 service; and

10 WHEREAS, Jimmy Palmer was born on December 17, 1946, in
11 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and was the son of the late James I.
12 Palmer, Sr., and Lena S. Palmer of Wiggins, Mississippi; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1965, Jimmy Palmer graduated from John Rundel
14 High School in Grenada, Mississippi, and furthered his education
15 at Mississippi State University where he received a Bachelor of
16 Science Degree in Civil Engineering in 1970; and

17 WHEREAS, Jimmy worked as an Engineering Aide with the
18 Mississippi State Highway Department in 1965; and

19 WHEREAS, while attending Mississippi State University, he
20 worked in the Soils and Nuclear Weapons Effects Division, United
21 States Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station in
22 Vicksburg, Mississippi; and

23 WHEREAS, Jimmy Palmer, upon graduation from Mississippi State
24 University, worked as an Assistant Engineer with the Mississippi
25 Public Service Commission; and

26 WHEREAS, he worked as a Resource Planning Engineer and then
27 as Director of Resource Planning with the Mississippi Board of

28 Water Commissioners, a predecessor agency of the Mississippi
29 Department of Natural Resources; and

30 WHEREAS, in 1974, Jimmy Palmer entered law school at the
31 University of Mississippi; in 1977, he graduated from law school
32 with honors; and

33 WHEREAS, upon his graduation from law school, Jimmy entered
34 private legal practice with Gerald, Brand, Watters, Cox and
35 Hemleben in both Newton and Jackson, Mississippi; and

36 WHEREAS, in 1980, Jimmy Palmer became a Special Assistant
37 Attorney General under Attorney General Bill Allain; his area of
38 responsibility included environmental and natural resource
39 protection issues, public utility regulation and licensure of
40 professional engineers and land surveyors; and

41 WHEREAS, he became Administrative Assistant and Staff Counsel
42 to Governor Bill Allain in 1984; and

43 WHEREAS, Jimmy assumed the position of Executive Director of
44 the Governor's Office of General Services in 1986; he was
45 responsible for construction, renovation and repair of state-owned
46 buildings, security in the Capitol Complex, and management of the
47 state purchasing program; and

48 WHEREAS, in 1987, Jimmy Palmer was appointed to serve as the
49 Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Natural
50 Resources, now known as the Mississippi Department of
51 Environmental Quality; he served continuously as Executive
52 Director during the administrations of Governor Bill Allain,
53 Governor Ray Mabus and Governor Kirk Fordice; he was responsible
54 for administration and enforcement of federal and state
55 environmental protection laws; and

56 WHEREAS, Jimmy Palmer is a registered professional engineer
57 in Mississippi and is licensed to practice law in all local, state
58 and federal courts; and

59 WHEREAS, Jimmy Palmer married Brenda Bridges on January 19,
60 1969; he and Brenda have three children, Lena Brice, Corey Leigh
61 and James Irvin, III; and

62 WHEREAS, Jimmy Palmer has been instrumental in the
63 development and implementation of environmental protection and
64 natural resources policy over the past 20 years; and

65 WHEREAS, Jimmy Palmer has been a distinguished and dedicated
66 public servant who has devoted 26 years of his life in service to
67 the State of Mississippi:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
69 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
70 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend James Irvin Palmer, Jr., for
71 his distinguished and dedicated service to the State of
72 Mississippi and for his many contributions to environmental
73 protection and natural resources conservation.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
75 furnished to James Irvin Palmer, Jr., and to members of the
76 Capitol Press Corps.