

By: Representatives Creel, Barnett (116th),
Dedeaux, Fredericks, Guice, Ishee, Janus,
Peranich, Simpson, Clark, Coleman (65th),
Zuber, Scott (80th)

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 120

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. GILBERT MASON, SR.,
2 UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM BILOXI REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Gilbert Mason, Sr., known as Mississippi's
4 "civil rights doctor," retired March 1, 2002, after 47 years of
5 medical practice; and

6 WHEREAS, growing up in the poorest neighborhoods of Jackson,
7 Mississippi, Dr. Mason, determined not to be engulfed by
8 impoverishment, attended Howard University in Washington, D.C.,
9 and returned to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1955 to open his
10 medical practice; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Mason, a self-described Freedom Boomer, is
12 remembered in the civil rights struggle for organizing beach
13 wade-ins, which marked the state's first civil disobedience; and

14 WHEREAS, greatly praised for his contributions to Biloxi
15 Regional Medical Center, Dr. Mason is spoken of highly by
16 colleagues who acknowledge his outstanding leadership and
17 honorable disposition as a physician and as a person; and

18 WHEREAS, with unshakable love for mankind which runs
19 intrinsically deep, Dr. Mason's life is a testimonial of the
20 forward moving differences that can be made by maintaining a
21 tenacious commitment to one's community and fellowman; and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Mason's memoirs, "Beaches, Blood and Ballots: A
23 Black Doctor's Civil Rights Struggle," was published in 2000 and
24 provides a detailed account of his encounters with segregation and
25 Jim Crow; and

26 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature of the State of
27 Mississippi to recognize and commend outstanding Mississippians



28 such as Dr. Mason, whose contributions to the field of medicine
29 and to society as a whole have benefited the interests of the
30 people of Mississippi and the entire nation:

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
32 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
33 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Gilbert
34 Mason, Sr., upon his retirement and extend to him our heartiest
35 wishes for many more years of good health, peace and happiness and
36 success in all his future endeavors.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
38 furnished to Dr. Gilbert Mason, Sr., the Biloxi Regional Medical
39 Center's Board of Directors and the members of the Capitol Press
40 Corps.

