

By: Senator(s) Gordon, Browning, Little, Hyde-Smith, Nunnelee, Minor, Harden, Jackson, Furniss, Moffatt, Harvey, Thames, Chaney, Scoper, Dickerson, Johnson (38th), Mettetal, Farris, Frazier, Dearing, Canon, Posey, Stogner, Burton, King, Robertson, Lee, Gollott, Carlton, Huggins, Cuevas To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING SOUTHWEST
2 MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE PRESIDENT HORACE C. HOLMES FOR HIS
3 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THIS INSTITUTION AND TO THE
4 COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE SYSTEM.

5 WHEREAS, for many people, Southwest Mississippi Community
6 College and Horace C. Holmes are synonymous. Under his
7 leadership, Southwest has become a respected member of the
8 community college system, and this year President Holmes
9 celebrates 55 years in education, 50 of those at Southwest where
10 he has influenced the lives of thousands.

11 WHEREAS, President Holmes came to Southwest to assume the
12 position of Psychology instructor and boys' basketball coach in
13 1953 after a five-year tenure as coach at Johnston Station and
14 Loyd Star High Schools, and what was to be a one year-stay evolved
15 into a half century. He became the Dean of Men in 1955 while
16 continuing his teaching responsibilities, and in 1957 he became
17 assistant to the president. By 1962, Holmes was dean of
18 instruction, a role he continued until July 1, 1972, when he
19 assumed the Presidency of Southwest; and

20 WHEREAS, although Southwest has the smallest multi-county
21 district and the smallest operating budget in the state, President
22 Holmes saw opportunities rather than obstacles. He knew that
23 Southwest students could receive a quality education rivaling that
24 of any institution, regardless of size. He retained an excellent
25 faculty and established projects to provide educational
26 instruction and facilities to fulfill Southwest's mission to serve
27 the citizens of its district by providing lower-division college,
28 occupational, and continuing education courses, as well as



29 community services, to meet the diverse needs of the population at
30 a reasonable cost. During these past 50 years of President
31 Holmes' tenure, Southwest has gained status within the
32 junior/community college system, has grown in size (buildings and
33 land), and has increased in enrollment and in faculty numbers; and

34 WHEREAS, as Southwest grew in stature, it also enjoyed
35 physical growth, thanks to President Holmes' insight and support.
36 New construction costs for the college have exceeded
37 \$20,000,000.00 since 1972 when Southwest began a massive building
38 program including key instructional and academic, as well as
39 support facilities, around the lake.

40 WHEREAS, with physical growth, came an increase in numbers.
41 In 1972, 37 faculty members taught the courses included in the 34
42 programs offered by the institution. During the 2002 semesters,
43 one hundred one faculty members provided instruction in the fifty
44 programs available. Student enrollment in 1972 numbered 912 as
45 compared to 1,772 in 2002. And perhaps most impressive, the
46 budget increased from \$965,108.00 in 1972 to \$10,439,295.00 in
47 2002.

48 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
49 gentleman who has done so much for a small community college in
50 southwest Mississippi and its students during the past 50 years
51 while staying actively involved with his family, church, and
52 community, and whose professional and civic dedication serve as a
53 model for all citizens in the State of Mississippi:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Southwest
56 Mississippi Community College President, Horace C. Holmes for his
57 50 years of outstanding service to this institution and to the
58 Community/Junior College System of Mississippi, and extend to him
59 and his family the best wishes of the Senate for continued
60 success.



61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
62 President Holmes at Southwest Mississippi's celebration in his
63 honor in conjunction with annual Homecoming activities, and be
64 forwarded to the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges and
65 be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

