

By: Representatives Holland, Creel, Denny,  
Evans, Guice, Janus, Martinson, Peranich,  
Zuber

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING BISHOP WILLIAM R. HOUCK  
2 FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND CONGRATULATING HIM  
3 UPON HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, Bishop William R. Houck, a native of Mobile,  
5 Alabama, is retiring after serving the Catholic church for more  
6 than 50 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Bishop Houck, son of William R. and Mildred  
8 Blanchard Houck, attended St. Vincent School and McGill Institute  
9 in Mobile, Alabama; and

10 WHEREAS, after graduating from St. Mary's Seminary and the  
11 Catholic University of America, Bishop Houck was ordained a Priest  
12 for the Diocese of Mobile on May 19, 1951, at the Basilica of the  
13 Immaculate Conception; and

14 WHEREAS, throughout his long and distinguished career in the  
15 Catholic church, Bishop Houck has performed pastoral work in  
16 parishes in Alabama and Florida; served in teaching and  
17 administrative positions in Catholic schools in Alabama and  
18 Florida; served as Superintendent of Catholic Schools in Alabama;  
19 and served as Secretary of Education in Alabama; and

20 WHEREAS, Bishop Houck was ordained a Bishop by Pope John Paul  
21 II on May 27, 1979, at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Italy; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1979, Bishop Houck served as Auxiliary Bishop to  
23 Bishop Joseph Brunini before being installed as the ninth Bishop  
24 of the Catholic Diocese of Jackson on June 5, 1984, which  
25 encompasses 65 of the 82 counties in central and northern  
26 Mississippi; and



27           WHEREAS, Bishop Houck has served as an instrumental leader in  
28 the Mississippi Religious Leadership Conference and as President  
29 of the Board of Hospice Ministries in Jackson, Mississippi; and

30           WHEREAS, in addition, Bishop Houck has been an active member  
31 of many professional organizations including serving on the  
32 Executive Board of International Liaison for the United States  
33 Catholic Committee for Lay Volunteer Ministry; the American Board  
34 of Catholic Missions Committee of the National Conference of  
35 Catholic Bishops; the Catholic Telecommunication Network of  
36 America Board; the Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality; the  
37 Southern Ecumenical Coalition on Maternal and Infant Health;  
38 President of the Ecumenical Health Care Organization; the Domestic  
39 Policy Committee on Peace and Justice of the United States  
40 Conference of Catholic Bishops; Chairman of the United States  
41 Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization for  
42 eight years; former President of the Southern Association of  
43 Colleges and Schools; and many more; and

44           WHEREAS, Bishop Houck has exemplified courage and leadership  
45 in civil rights issues throughout the state and calling attention  
46 to the plight of children in this state, especially those who live  
47 in poverty; and

48           WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
49 and commend outstanding service such as that of Bishop Houck, who  
50 has dedicated his life to serving the spiritual and emotional  
51 needs of so many people, striving to improve their quality of  
52 life:

53           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
54 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
55 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Bishop William R. Houck for his  
56 many years of outstanding service, congratulate him upon his  
57 retirement and express our heartiest wishes for success in all his  
58 future endeavors.



59           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
60 furnished to Bishop William R. Houck and to the members of the  
61 Capitol Press Corps.

