

By: Senator(s) Jackson, Williamson,  
Carmichael, Burton

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 12

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. THOMAS L.  
2 DAVIS, JR., LONGTIME PRESIDENT OF EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY  
3 COLLEGE.

4 WHEREAS, Calhoun City native Dr. Thomas Leland Davis, Jr., is  
5 known among Mississippi community colleges as the President who  
6 brought East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) from the brink  
7 of closure to its current status as the fastest growing community  
8 college in the state; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis, the eldest of eight children, was born in  
10 Prentiss County, Mississippi, on January 5, 1934, to Thomas Leland  
11 Davis, Sr., and Eula Bullard Davis. He lived with his family in  
12 the Pleasant Hill Community and graduated from Calhoun City High  
13 School in 1952; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis attended East Mississippi Community  
15 College in the early 1950's on a football scholarship and  
16 graduated with an associate degree. He later received degrees  
17 from Mississippi College, the University of Southern Mississippi  
18 and his Doctorate in Educational Administration from Mississippi  
19 State University; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis has had many years of leadership in  
21 coaching, teaching and administration. From 1955 to 1976, he  
22 experienced highly successful coaching careers at Pachuta High  
23 School, Meridian High School, Louisiana College and Northwest High  
24 School in Missouri. His high school teams only had one losing  
25 season in 15 years. He served as Director of Athletics and Head  
26 Football Coach at Heidelberg High School, Columbia High School and  
27 Holmes Community College. From 1976 to 1990, Dr. Davis served in



28 the capacities of Director of Continuing Education and Community  
29 Services, District Director of Institutional Research and Planning  
30 and Vice President for the Goodman Campus at Holmes Community  
31 College; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1990 Dr. Davis returned to East Mississippi  
33 Community College as President and set out to make his goals for  
34 his alma mater a reality. Dr. Davis had the threat of closure  
35 removed, changed the financial condition of the college, improved  
36 the public image of the college and the morale of its faculty and  
37 staff, resumed discontinued programs and activities such as sports  
38 and the arts, and improved relations with the State Legislature.  
39 He has also succeeded in fostering a sense of common purpose among  
40 the Scooba and Golden Triangle campuses and the extension centers  
41 that has resulted in a stronger, more unified college. Since Dr.  
42 Davis became President, the college's enrollment has more than  
43 doubled, making East Mississippi Community College the fastest  
44 growing community college in the state; and

45 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis is the current President of the  
46 Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges and is a  
47 member of many professional organizations involving education. He  
48 serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern  
49 Association of Community and Technical Colleges, is former  
50 President of the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges,  
51 and serves on the Board of Directors of the Community Colleges of  
52 Appalachia and the prestigious Commission on Colleges of the  
53 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. He is a member of  
54 Scooba Baptist Church, an ordained Deacon, a Sunday School teacher  
55 and a frequent lay speaker in churches; and

56 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis was recently honored by the Mississippi  
57 National Guard at Camp Shelby because of his tremendous support of  
58 the Armed Forces; and

59 WHEREAS, Dr. Davis is an avid hunter, fisherman and student  
60 of the War Between the States; he is married to Rita Chatham Davis



61 and they have two sons, Thomas L. Davis III and Jonathan E. Davis;  
62 and

63 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the service  
64 of this dedicated alumnus and leader of East Mississippi Community  
65 College, who has brought honor to his college, his community and  
66 to the State of Mississippi:

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
68 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Thomas  
69 L. Davis, Jr., longtime President of East Mississippi Community  
70 College, and extend to him and his family the greetings and thanks  
71 of the Legislature for his service.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
73 Dr. Davis and his family, the Board of Trustees of East  
74 Mississippi Community College, and be made available to the  
75 Capitol Press Corps.

