

By: Senator(s) Little, Chaney

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF DEDICATED
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES M. (CHARLIE)
3 DEATON OF GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS
4 RETIREMENT FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

5 WHEREAS, a native of Greenwood, Mississippi, former
6 Representative Charles M. (Charlie) Deaton has been a member of
7 the Mississippi Board of Education since 1987. In addition to the
8 term he is currently serving as Chair, he served as Chairman of
9 the Mississippi Board of Education from July 1994 to June 1996;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, for the past 44 years, the seasons of Charles
12 Deaton's political life have revolved around the State Capitol.
13 It was there, in January 1960, that Deaton began his career in the
14 Legislature that would roll through civil rights fights, into
15 legislation to update and renovate the state park system and
16 toward educational reform; and

17 WHEREAS, his five terms there would take him to top jobs,
18 both political and civic. He became Chairman of the House
19 Appropriations Committee, Chairman of the Mississippi Wildlife
20 Heritage Commission, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the
21 State Public Employees Retirement System. He served on the
22 Advisory Board of the Mississippi Small Business Development
23 Center, on the Mississippi Research and Development Council and on
24 the Mississippi Budget and Accounting Commission; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1980, Deaton ran for Governor and failed to make
26 it through the Democratic primary, but he joined the staff of Gov.
27 William Winter and later, Gov. Bill Allain. He served eight years

28 as a Senior Aide, working mainly in the areas of economic
29 development, natural resources and transportation; and

30 WHEREAS, an Attorney for the law firm of Brewer, Deaton and
31 Bowman, Deaton graduated from Greenwood High School, received a
32 Bachelor's Degree from Millsaps College and a law degree from the
33 University of Mississippi; and

34 WHEREAS, Charlie entered Millsaps College in September of
35 1949, but along with many of his classmates had to go into the
36 service in January 1951. He and Mary Dent married in August of
37 that same year, but she chose to stay and graduate from Millsaps
38 during his Navy career and then to teach in Greenwood for two
39 years before his returning to Millsaps, during which time she
40 taught in Jackson. He then entered Ole Miss Law School, taking
41 time out in 1956 to serve as Legislative Assistant to Congressman
42 Frank Smith in Washington, while attending George Washington
43 University School of Law; and

44 WHEREAS, as a part of the Winter administration, he was
45 involved in the Education Reform Act of 1982 and as a member of
46 the State Board of Education, he continued to press for
47 improvement in education to pave the way for a better developed
48 economy; and

49 WHEREAS, he served as a member of the Board of Directors for
50 the Bank of Commerce in Greenwood, the Mississippi Board of
51 Trustees for The Nature Conservancy, and as a member of the
52 Mississippi Water Resources Management Planning Commission; and

53 WHEREAS, the Deatons have three children: Charles II, who is
54 an Episcopal Priest; and two daughters, Beverly Diane and Dara
55 Lane; and

56 WHEREAS, Charles Deaton's service in state government has
57 been exemplified by sound judgment, firmness and credibility, and
58 we are grateful for his legacy of service in state government:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
60 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That

61 we do hereby commend and congratulate former Representative
62 Charles M. (Charlie) Deaton of Greenwood, Mississippi, on the
63 occasion of his retirement from the State Board of Education after
64 44 years of dedicated public service, and wish he and his wife,
65 Mary, the best as he returns to private life.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
67 Charlie Deaton and his family, be forwarded to the State Board of
68 Education, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.