

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Burton,
Butler, Gollott, Hewes, Jackson
(11th), Jordan, Lee (47th),
Simmons, Thomas, Tollison, Walls

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1

1 A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND MISSISSIPPI GAMING COMMISSION
2 CHAIRMAN LEN BLACKWELL OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, FOR HIS PUBLIC
3 SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Leonard Adam "Len" Blackwell II, has served with
5 distinction as Chairman of the Mississippi Gaming Commission for
6 the past three years until his term of office expired on September
7 30, 2004; and

8 WHEREAS, the mission of the Mississippi Gaming Commission is
9 to enforce the Gaming Control Act and Charitable Gaming Laws of
10 the State of Mississippi in such a manner that will ensure the
11 integrity of the State of Mississippi and maintain the public
12 confidence in both the charitable gaming and casino gaming
13 industries by working in conjunction with the industry. The
14 Mississippi Gaming Commission works in concert with international,
15 national, state, county, local regulatory and law enforcement
16 agencies to establish a safe and crime free environment, and to
17 ensure economic development that is in both the best interest of
18 the citizens of the state. This free market system which is
19 regulated by the commission and its chairman has been referred to
20 as the "Mississippi Model" for its effectiveness; and

21 WHEREAS, Chairman Leonard Adam "Len" Blackwell II, was born
22 in Brookhaven, Mississippi. He is a 1963 graduate of the
23 University of Mississippi and a 1966 graduate of the University of
24 Mississippi School of Law. Mr. Blackwell was President of Omicron
25 Delta Kappa and a member of the Editorial Board of the Mississippi
26 Law Journal at the University of Mississippi School of Law; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Blackwell is a partner in the Law Firm of
28 Blackwell and White in Gulfport, Mississippi, and also is a timber
29 farmer in South Mississippi. He served as President of the Young
30 Lawyers Section of The Mississippi Bar in 1978, was a member of
31 the Board of Directors of South Mississippi Legal Services
32 Corporation from 1982-1991, serves as a panel member of the
33 Mississippi State Bar Pro Bono Project, has been a lecturer at the
34 University of Mississippi School of Law since 1981 and was
35 President of the Mississippi State Bar from 1990-1991. He holds
36 the rank of Advocate in the American Board of Trial Advocacy, and
37 is a member of numerous professional and civic organizations; and

38 WHEREAS, during Chairman Blackwell's tenure, the Mississippi
39 Gaming Commission was particularly active in streamlining the
40 functions of the Gaming Laboratory, which approves all electronic
41 gaming devices and firmware and establishes maintenance procedures
42 for machine field testing and jackpot verification; and

43 WHEREAS, he is married to the former Mary Eloise Ladner. He
44 and his wife have two daughters and attend St. Mark's Episcopal
45 Church. Commissioner Blackwell and his family reside in Gulfport,
46 Mississippi; and

47 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we recognize the public
48 service and integrity of this citizen who has served this
49 important industry and the State of Mississippi:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the legacy of public
52 service of Mississippi Gaming Commission former Chairman, Leonard
53 Adam "Len" Blackwell II, and express to him and his family the
54 best wishes of the Legislature in their future endeavors.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
56 Len Blackwell and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.