

By: Representative Scott

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 45

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING WILLIE H. JEFFERSON UPON HIS  
2 RETIREMENT FROM ELLISVILLE STATE SCHOOL AFTER MORE THAN 30 YEARS  
3 OF DEDICATED, DILIGENT AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE IN THE FIELD OF  
4 MENTAL RETARDATION.

5 WHEREAS, Willie H. Jefferson, born June 24, 1956, in Jones  
6 County, Mississippi, to Mr. Tom Jefferson and the late Mrs. Ella  
7 M. Jefferson, has been described by Dr. Suzie Lassiter, Director  
8 of Ellisville State School, "as a true leader, an individual who  
9 leads by example and a man of integrity who always puts the needs  
10 of Ellisville State School first"; and

11 WHEREAS, "with over 30 years of service to Ellisville State  
12 School, Mr. Jefferson is known by his peers to be intelligent,  
13 hardworking, loyal, friendly and concerned about the quality of  
14 care for the citizens who suffer from mental retardation," said Dr  
15 Albert R. Hendrix, Executive Director of the Department of Mental  
16 Health; and

17 WHEREAS, having completed 58 hours of course work at Jones  
18 County Junior College, Mr. Jefferson transferred to the University  
19 of Southern Mississippi where he earned his Bachelor of Science  
20 degree in Social Rehabilitation Services and subsequently earned  
21 his Master of Arts degree in Counseling Psychology from William  
22 Carey College; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Jefferson, who is a Certified Mental Health  
24 Therapist and licensed Nursing Home Administrator, commenced his  
25 employment with Ellisville State School in June 1973 as a security  
26 officer, but his determination and perseverance to be of greater  
27 assistance to address the needs and improve the accommodations of

28 the mentally retarded allowed him to progress within the  
29 institution; and

30 WHEREAS, since his employment with Ellisville State School  
31 began, Mr. Jefferson has served in many capacities, including  
32 facility maintenance repair, Residential Program Services  
33 Supervisor, Nursing Home Administrator, Coordinator of Health  
34 Facility, Division Director II and Facility Assistant Director, a  
35 position that he has held since 1992; and

36 WHEREAS, the recipient of the MAAMR Paul D. Cotten, Ph.D.  
37 Leadership Award for his commitment and contribution to service  
38 for Mississippians with mental retardation, Mr. Jefferson is a  
39 former member of the Mississippi Development Disabilities Planning  
40 Council, former member of the Jones County Extension Service  
41 Advisory Board, member of the American Association of Mental  
42 Retardation, member of the Ellisville State School Human Rights  
43 Advocacy Committee and liason for the Ellisville State School  
44 Human Rights Advocacy Committee; and

45 WHEREAS, Mr. Jefferson, while fulfilling his duties and  
46 obligations to Ellisville State School, also used his time and  
47 faculties to perform consultation services for South Mississippi  
48 Regional Center, training and facility programming and  
49 documentation at North Mississippi Regional Center and worked as  
50 Nursing Home Administrator at Boswell Regional Center; and

51 WHEREAS, a faithfully devoted member of Mt. Olive Baptist  
52 Church, where he has added strength to the church by serving on  
53 the deacon board, Mr. Jefferson spends his spare time working at  
54 his laundry business and at his church; and

55 WHEREAS, a devoted husband, father and grandfather, he has  
56 been loved, supported and encouraged by his family, including his  
57 wife, Barbara McLaurin Jefferson; daughters, Cynthia and Monica  
58 Jefferson; and grandson, Da'Dreon Jefferson; and

59 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
60 recognize and commend excellence when exhibited by the state's

61 finest caliber of citizens such as Mr. Jefferson, whose life of  
62 service has touched many individuals and families throughout the  
63 State of Mississippi:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
65 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
66 commend the dedicated and committed service of Willie H. Jefferson  
67 to the State of Mississippi and Ellisville State School,  
68 congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement and extend our  
69 warmest wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
71 furnished to Mr. Jefferson, the Ellisville State School and to the  
72 members of the Capitol Press Corps.