

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE SUCCESSFUL CAREER OF STEVE COX,
2 PURCHASING DIRECTOR FOR CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT, INC., AND
3 RECOGNIZING HIM FOR SUPPORTING THE MINORITY BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN
4 MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, as Regional Director of Purchasing for Caesars
6 Entertainment, Inc., Mid South Region, Steve Cox directs
7 activities for one of the world's leading gaming companies; and

8 WHEREAS, Steve Cox directs the purchasing activities for five
9 casino resorts in Mississippi and a riverboat casino in New
10 Orleans. He has been in casino purchasing for seven-plus years,
11 hired in 1997 to be the Corporate Food and Beverage Purchasing
12 Director for Grand Casinos, Inc., which managed four tribal gaming
13 properties located in Minnesota and Louisiana, and owned and
14 operated three casino resorts in Mississippi; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1998, when Grand Casino was acquired by Park
16 Place Entertainment, Steve was given total responsibility to
17 purchase all products and services for the newly created Mid South
18 Region. Steve's knowledge of purchasing detail and dedication to
19 innovation in his industry is a matter of record; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Cox began his career in Purchasing with Carrols
21 Corporation, Burger King's largest franchisee located in Syracuse,
22 New York, in 1979. In 1990, he was hired by Maines Paper and Food
23 Service, Binghamton, New York, a full-service broad line
24 distributor with annual sales of \$250 Million, and was
25 subsequently promoted to Vice President of Purchasing. In 1993
26 Steve accepted a position as Director of Purchasing for the
27 Bayport Restaurant Group, Hollywood, Florida, which operated

28 eleven full-service seafood restaurants doing business as The Crab
29 House; and

30 WHEREAS, Steve is a graduate of Babson College, Wellesley,
31 MA, is a member of the Blue Key Honor Society; he is retired from
32 the military, having served as an officer in the United States
33 Army, Infantry Corps and is a member of the Military Order of the
34 Purple Heart. Steve is married and has five children; and

35 WHEREAS, Caesar's five casinos (Grand Casino Gulfport, Grand
36 Casino Biloxi, Grand Casino Tunica, and Bally's and Sheraton in
37 Tunica) have taken the leadership role among the state's 29
38 state-regulated casinos in an initiative to procure more goods and
39 services from Mississippi vendors with an emphasis on minority
40 business enterprises (MBEs) and women business enterprises (WBEs).
41 To accomplish its objectives, Caesars has worked closely with the
42 Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, which created the initiative
43 in 2003, and legislative committees. For calendar year 2004, this
44 initiative netted a record \$12.8 Million to Mississippi minority
45 businesses. This \$12.8 Million in activity firmly establishes
46 Caesars as the number one corporation in the entire State of
47 Mississippi when it comes to doing meaningful business with the
48 African-American business community; and

49 WHEREAS, Black entrepreneurs engaged in insurance, food
50 brokering, commodities, laundry and dry cleaning, drinking water,
51 transportation, construction, architecture and food distribution
52 represent just a few of the successful and creative relationships
53 which have been developed by Caesars. This initiative would not
54 have been successful without the experience, ingenuity and on-the-
55 ground support of Steve Cox. In his capacity as Regional
56 Purchasing Director, Mr. Cox has identified opportunities, crafted
57 partnerships, mentored businesses and provided insight into how to
58 make the process work. He, in effect, has taken minority business
59 development in Mississippi to another level; and

60 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we recognize the business and
61 civic contributions of this corporate citizen to the economy of
62 the State of Mississippi:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
64 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the career of Steve Cox,
65 Purchasing Director for Caesars Entertainment, Inc., recognize him
66 and his corporation for supporting the minority business community
67 in Mississippi, and extend to him and his family the best wishes
68 of the Legislature for our mutual success.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
70 Steve Cox and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.