

By: Senator(s) Thames, Harvey, Pickering

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

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
15 Dr. Albert R. Hendrix, Executive Director of the Department of
16 Mental 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 with pride that we recognize this citizen,
60 whose life of public service has touched many individuals and
61 families throughout the State of Mississippi:

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

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
69 presented to Mr. Jefferson, forwarded to Ellisville State School
70 and be made available to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.