

By: Representative Masterson

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 108

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF DR. CHARLES  
2 L. MATHEWS TO THE MISSISSIPPI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (MSMA).

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Charles L. Mathews was employed by the  
4 Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) for a total of 35  
5 years, where he served 26 years as the association's executive  
6 director, before his retirement in 1998; and

7 WHEREAS, a native Mississippian who was reared in Maryland,  
8 graduated from Louisiana State University, and undertook  
9 additional graduate studies in law and management at LSU, Syracuse  
10 University and Jackson School of Law, and honorably served his  
11 country from 1952-1955 with the United States Army; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Mathews joined the MSMA staff in 1960 and served  
13 as the association's first full-time lobbyist until 1969, when he  
14 left the association to join the staff of Governor John Bell  
15 Williams; and

16 WHEREAS, while serving on Governor Williams' staff, Dr.  
17 Mathews was instrumental in both drafting and securing legislative  
18 passage in 1969 of the law establishing Mississippi's Medicaid  
19 program, and was subsequently named deputy director of the state  
20 agency responsible for designing, organizing and implementing the  
21 Title XIX program throughout Mississippi; and

22 WHEREAS, Governor Williams sought the assistance of Dr.  
23 Mathews and appointed him Commissioner of Mississippi's State  
24 Department of Welfare in 1971, where he led the agency for the  
25 remainder of Governor Williams' term; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Mathews returned to the MSMA in 1972 as its  
27 executive director serving in that capacity until his retirement

28 in 1998, where he established a vision that led to numerous  
29 innovative programs that serves Mississippi physicians and their  
30 patients, including the Mississippi Foundation for Medical Care;  
31 and

32 WHEREAS, Dr. Mathews oversaw the 1985 conversion of MSMA to  
33 "unified" membership status with the American Medical Association  
34 and, at a time when other state medical societies were unable to  
35 accomplish this feat, increasing MSMA membership approximately 53  
36 percent; and

37 WHEREAS, the MSMA initiative to raise \$1.5 million to  
38 capitalize the Physicians Care Insurance Company, a fully licensed  
39 health care insurance company currently offering stock to members  
40 of the association, was spearheaded by Dr. Mathews to better  
41 utilize resources and establish a physician presence in the  
42 financing of healthcare; and

43 WHEREAS, Dr. Mathews' participation in the development of  
44 organized medicine by the counsel he has provided the MSMA  
45 delegation to the American Medical Association House of Delegates,  
46 his work with the American Association of Medical Society  
47 Executives, his effective guidance and oversight of advocacy work  
48 in Mississippi's legislative and regulatory arenas; and

49 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
50 recognize and commend the excellence and the diligence of such a  
51 dedicated individual as Dr. Mathews:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
53 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
54 commend the life and service of Dr. Charles L. Mathews for his  
55 service to the Mississippi State Medical Association.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
57 furnished to Dr. Mathews and to the members of the Capitol Press  
58 Corps.