

By: Representative Davis

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 117

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED  
2 SERVICE OF JOHN N. GRUBBS, FORMER DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF THE  
3 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION,  
4 AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS  
5 PASSING.

6 WHEREAS, John Neil Grubbs, born June 16, 1945, to the late  
7 Dale and Eva Johnson Grubbs, departed this earthly life on Sunday,  
8 September 3, 2006, at the age of 61, causing great sorrow and loss  
9 to his family and friends; and

10 WHEREAS, a native of Simpson County, Commissioner Grubbs  
11 resided in Brandon, Mississippi, where he was a charter member of  
12 Brandon Baptist Church; and

13 WHEREAS, having received his formal education at Magee High  
14 School, Commissioner Grubbs matriculated further at the University  
15 of Southern Mississippi, earning a bachelor of science degree in  
16 psychology; and

17 WHEREAS, having spent all of his professional career as an  
18 employee of the State of Mississippi, which spanned the course of  
19 more than 30 years, Commissioner Grubbs' first occupation was that  
20 of counselor at the Oakley Training School, before being promoted  
21 to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Programs during his  
22 stint with the facility from 1970 through 1979; and

23 WHEREAS, Commissioner Grubbs was hired in 1979 by the  
24 Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) as Director of the  
25 Restitution Center, promoted in 1985 to the position of Deputy  
26 Commissioner of Community Services, which he maintained until his  
27 retirement in 2001, and also served as Deputy Commissioner of  
28 Institutions; and

29           WHEREAS, present records in the history of MDOC, which was  
30 created by the Corrections Act of 1976, indicates that  
31 Commissioner Grubbs was the longest serving commissioner employed  
32 by the agency; and

33           WHEREAS, when Commissioner Grubbs assumed the role of Deputy  
34 Commissioner, MDOC was heading in a new direction in its effort of  
35 combating the ever present problem of prison overcrowding; and

36           WHEREAS, under his leadership and his cooperative  
37 relationship with the Legislature, Commissioner Grubbs' career  
38 accomplishments and correctional improvements include: the  
39 construction of an additional community work center and the  
40 decentralization of the Parchman prison system; the opening of the  
41 Rankin County Correctional Center (1986); the opening of the South  
42 Mississippi Correctional Institution (1989); the implementation of  
43 private prisons, with the opening of Marshall County Correctional  
44 Facility, Delta Correctional Facility, Wilkinson County  
45 Correctional Facility and East Mississippi Correctional Facility;  
46 and the creation of co-regional facilities in the counties of  
47 Issaquena, Jefferson-Franklin, Leake, Carroll-Montgomery,  
48 Winston-Choctaw, Marion-Walthall, Bolivar, Kemper, Holmes and  
49 Stone; and

50           WHEREAS, during the course of his distinguished career,  
51 Commissioner Grubbs has served under eight Mississippi governors  
52 and 11 of 13 MDOC Commissioners; and

53           WHEREAS, affectionately referred to as "the white-headed man"  
54 among the inmate population, Commissioner Grubbs' tenure with MDOC  
55 earned him the respect for one who spent his entire life in  
56 service to corrections and law enforcement; and

57           WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to stand  
58 on golden heavenly shores, where the effects of time shall be no  
59 more, the memory of his legacy will thrive in the lives of those  
60 he leaves behind: wife, Cheryl D. Grubbs; daughters, Suzanne R.  
61 Hall and Cindy R. (Carl) Widdig; grandchildren, Jessica, James,

62 Jullie and Jonathan; sisters, Evelyn Bousson and Billie Jean  
63 Thornton; and a host of other relatives, colleagues and friends;  
64 and

65 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend the  
66 service, career and life of one so dedicated to his state, family  
67 and church as Commissioner Grubbs, whose life is a testament of  
68 advocating good will and the opportunity for a second chance:

69 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
70 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
71 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life and dedicated service  
72 of John N. Grubbs, former Deputy Commissioner of the Mississippi  
73 Department of Corrections Community Services Division and express  
74 deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
76 furnished to the family of Commissioner Grubbs and to the members  
77 of the Capitol Press Corps.