

By: Senator(s) Little, Burton, Dearing, Albritton, Brown, Browning, Bryan, Butler, Carmichael, Chaney, Chassaniol, Clarke, Cuevas, Davis, Dawkins, Doxey, Fillingane, Flowers, Frazier, Gollott, Gordon, Harden, Hewes, Horhn, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Kirby, Lee (35th), Lee (47th), Mettetal, Michel, Moffatt, Morgan, Nunnelee, Pickering, Posey, Robertson, Ross, Simmons, Thames, Thomas, Tollison, Turner, Walley, Walls, White, Wilemon, Williamson To: Adopted

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 27

1 A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AMY TUCK FOR HER
2 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE AND FOR HER LEGACY
3 TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck is retiring from the
5 Mississippi Senate in accordance with the Constitutional provision
6 that a Lieutenant Governor may not serve more than two consecutive
7 terms; and

8 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Tuck is a lady of integrity,
9 fairness and hard work, and there is an acknowledged respect for
10 the public and private life of our esteemed and beloved Presiding
11 Officer, who has been a role model for all members of the
12 Mississippi Legislature; and

13 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck is a native of Maben,
14 Mississippi, and her Mississippi heritage stretches back as far as
15 her family tree's roots can reach; and

16 WHEREAS, as a student, she attended Mississippi State
17 University where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Political
18 Science and a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration.
19 She went on to study law and received her Juris Doctorate from
20 Mississippi College in 1989; and

21 WHEREAS, as a public servant, Lt. Governor Tuck began her
22 career the next year when voters elected her to the Mississippi
23 State Senate. The State Senator led passage of landmark
24 legislation to overhaul thousands of dangerous rural bridges; and

25 WHEREAS, later, as Secretary of the Senate, she administered
26 the day-to-day business operations of the State Senate; and

27 WHEREAS, in 1999, she was elected Lieutenant Governor of the
28 State of Mississippi and reelected in 2003; and

29 WHEREAS, as a leading policymaker in the Mississippi
30 Legislature, she has been a passionate champion of children and a
31 powerful advocate for public education. In 2000, her efforts
32 resulted in a historic teacher pay package better known as the TOP
33 (Teacher Opportunity Pay) plan, with the goal of raising teacher
34 salaries to the Southeastern average. She also coupled the
35 teacher pay plan with strong accountability measures because she
36 believes that higher teacher pay and stronger accountability are
37 inseparable. Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck has always believed an
38 emphasis on early childhood education is not just a worthy goal
39 but an obligation to our future; and

40 WHEREAS, as a leader for business and economic development,
41 Lt. Governor Tuck has pushed a series of civil justice reforms
42 through the Legislature to restore balance to our judicial system,
43 ensuring access to healthcare and protecting small business owners
44 from frivolous lawsuits. This epic struggle resulted in an 83-day
45 special session of the Legislature; and

46 WHEREAS, in 2006 and 2007, Lt. Governor Tuck championed "tax
47 swap" legislation geared towards improving the health and cutting
48 taxes for hardworking Mississippians. Under her plan, the excise
49 tax on cigarettes would be raised by \$1.00 a pack while the state
50 sales tax on groceries would be cut by 50%; and

51 WHEREAS, the protection of our state's elderly and most
52 vulnerable citizens and access to healthcare for seniors has also
53 been a priority in her administration. The Lieutenant Governor
54 spearheaded efforts to protect the future of Medicaid by
55 eliminating waste and fraud and fought for stronger language in
56 the Vulnerable Adults Act to protect our elderly; and

57 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Amy Tuck was a leader in the
58 effort to pass legislation requiring the phrase "In God We Trust,"
59 be posted in all public school classrooms, and she personally

60 worked with the American Family Association to raise the money to
61 pay for costs to schools. After a federal court tried to ban
62 parts of our Pledge of Allegiance in public schools, she
63 successfully fought to pass legislation requiring that
64 schoolchildren recite the Pledge of Allegiance every morning to
65 begin the day; and

66 WHEREAS, asserting her longstanding pro-life beliefs, Lt.
67 Governor Tuck has been one of our state's strongest defenders of
68 the unborn, leading the effort for legal protection of the unborn
69 and protecting the sanctity of life. Her commitment to the
70 pro-life cause is unmatched in state government; and

71 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Tuck is a proven and strong
72 supporter of law enforcement and public safety issues. She has
73 championed legislation to make fleeing from a law enforcement
74 officer a felony and also led the fight to approve, fund and
75 implement a statewide system of drug courts. Whether backing
76 legislation to protect citizens from identity theft or making sure
77 felons serve significant prison time, Lt. Governor Amy Tuck has
78 been at the forefront of public safety issues; and

79 WHEREAS, as Lieutenant Governor, she has served alternately
80 as Chair and Vice Chair of the Legislative Budget Committee, the
81 body which determines how the state's budget is shaped; and

82 WHEREAS, our Presiding Officer has been a leader with a
83 proven record, who strives in everything she does to put "People
84 Above Politics"; and

85 WHEREAS, her record as Lieutenant Governor is fully
86 recognized by all responsible citizens and public officials who
87 attest to the tremendous progress made in our state while she
88 served:

89 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
90 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and recognize Lieutenant
91 Governor Amy Tuck, whose long and outstanding service has enriched

92 everyone with whom she was associated, and we wish her much
93 success in her future public and private endeavors.

94 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
95 Lieutenant Governor Tuck.