

By: Representative Williams-Barnes

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 133

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED AND LAUDABLE
2 LEGISLATIVE CAREER OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE, THE HONORABLE
3 ADRIENNE WOOTEN AND CONGRATULATING HER UPON BEING ELECTED TO THE
4 BENCH AS CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE OF DISTRICT 7, PLACE 1, HINDS COUNTY,
5 MISSISSIPPI.

6 WHEREAS, in the historical November 27, 2018, run-off
7 election, the citizens of Hinds County returned to the polls in
8 overwhelming fashion to elect former State Representative and
9 daughter of the late Mr. Tommy Hooper, Sr., and Mrs. Jo Ann
10 Hooper, the Honorable Adrienne Wooten, to the post of Circuit
11 Court Judge of District 7, Place 1, Hinds County, Mississippi,
12 while simultaneously relaying bittersweet confirmation of an
13 official changing of the guard in the post held for the last 11
14 years by a visionary leader, friend, lawmaker and respected
15 attorney; and

16 WHEREAS, the distinguished Gentle Lady from Hinds County,
17 Mississippi, Representative Adrienne Wooten, an honored and
18 cherished member of the Mississippi House of Representatives,
19 revered for her legal expertise and credible public service, made



20 election history to become the first African-American female to
21 hold the position of Circuit Court Judge of District 7, Place 1,
22 Hinds County, Mississippi, bringing a climactic end to the third
23 year of her third term of legislative service as a member of the
24 House of Representatives from District 71, after having been
25 initially elected in November 2007, situated in the City of
26 Jackson, Hinds County, Mississippi; and

27 WHEREAS, a native of Meridian, Mississippi, Representative
28 Wooten answered her call to public service when she made the
29 decision to attend law school after earning her baccalaureate
30 degree as a pre-law major from Alcorn State University, and upon
31 completing the requisite courses of study to obtain her juris
32 doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law and
33 subsequent admission to The Mississippi Bar, she embarked on the
34 journey of jurisprudence, which has now spanned the course of
35 approximately two decades, when she began as an associate with the
36 law firm of Blackmon and Blackmon, PLLC, before venturing out on
37 her own to open the successful practice, the Law Firm of Adrienne
38 Hooper-Wooten, PLLC, in 2004, with offices in Ridgeland and
39 Lexington, Mississippi, and allowed her to hone her skills as a
40 litigator in the areas of criminal law, premises liability,
41 personal injury, drug product liability, product liability,
42 mass tort litigation, medical malpractice, wrongful death and
43 family law; and



44 WHEREAS, during her career as a litigator, Representative
45 Wooten actively litigated civil matters and served as an Assistant
46 Public Defender for Holmes County for 15 years representing
47 indigent defendants, which heightened her mission to champion the
48 cause for the "least of these" among us; and

49 WHEREAS, gaining stature as a prominent yet formidable
50 politician, the Lady from Hinds' abilities and talent were
51 immediately recognized by her colleagues, and when combined with
52 her strong work ethic, she quickly rose from freshman lawmaker and
53 Vice Chairman of both the Apportionment and Elections Committee
54 and the Legislative Reapportionment and Congressional
55 Redistricting Committee at the onset of her first legislative term
56 in 2008, to an influential purveyor of equity; and

57 WHEREAS, over the course of her storied legislative career,
58 Representative Wooten's diligence and devotion to the office to
59 which she was elected have been fueled by the desire to make the
60 quality of life better for her immediate constituency base and the
61 entire citizenry of the Hospitality State, as she has endeavored
62 with feverish propensity through her vocal participation on the
63 House Committees to which she was assigned, including: Banking
64 and Financial Services, Constitution, Fees and Salaries of Public
65 Officers, Insurance, Judiciary B, Judiciary En Banc, Labor,
66 Municipalities, Public Health and Human Services, Public Property,
67 Universities and Colleges and Workforce Development; and



68 WHEREAS, Representative Wooten's love and deeply felt respect
69 for the Legislature as a hallowed institution has led her to fight
70 to preserve and nurture its integrity, becoming a guardian of this
71 democratic institution as one who equally held a lion's share in
72 the stake of advancing the direction of the state's economic,
73 educational and political climate; and

74 WHEREAS, during her tenure in the House, Representative
75 Wooten maintained a strong role in every meaningful initiative
76 addressed by the Mississippi Legislature, including economic
77 development, fiscal affairs, education, gaming, public health,
78 transportation, agriculture, and election reform initiatives and
79 programs; and

80 WHEREAS, a rare leader who was able to lead effectively and
81 serve with humility while promoting the integrity and strength of
82 the Legislature with dogged determination and zealous advocacy for
83 her constituency base, Wooten was known to be a fair and
84 even-handed steward of the legislative process as demonstrated by
85 her ability to uphold loyalty to the House of Representatives over
86 individual political affiliations; and

87 WHEREAS, admired for her ability for building consensus in
88 the Legislature regardless of the issues at hand, it is with the
89 same deference that her presence to the bench is both essential
90 and most appropriate to carry forward the service to the citizens
91 of Hinds County, who avail themselves of the judicial system; and



92 WHEREAS, the Lady from Hinds exchanged the title of
93 Representative Wooten for that of Judge Wooten, and resigned the
94 title "Gentle Lady" for "Your Honor," as she makes her departure
95 from the stained glass ceiling and decorative walls of the chamber
96 of the Mississippi House of Representatives for a private judge's
97 chamber, where her legal expertise and experience as a well-versed
98 arbiter of the law will aid her in the even-handed issuance of
99 justice; and

100 WHEREAS, the members of this Legislature will cherish the
101 bond and common goals for the betterment of our great state shared
102 with Representative Wooten, and that her impeccable service was
103 unparalleled to the Mississippi Legislature, American Bar
104 Association, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, Metro
105 Jackson Black Women Lawyers Association, Mississippi Women's
106 Lawyers Association, Magnolia Bar Association, Mississippi Bar
107 Association, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., the
108 constituents of District 71 and to this great state; and

109 WHEREAS, the service of Representative Wooten would be
110 without honor but for the continued support, encouragement and
111 love of her loving husband, Dewayne Wooten, who endured the
112 daunting struggles that accompany the life of an elected official,
113 and who sacrificed countless hours without her in order to allow
114 her to fulfill her legislative obligations; and

115 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
116 honor the indelible legacy of remarkable service of our former



117 colleague and friend, Representative Adrienne Wooten, who
118 represented her district, this body and the people of this state
119 with honor and intrepid dignity:

120 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
121 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
122 commend the distinguished and laudable legislative career of
123 former Representative Adrienne Wooten, congratulate her upon being
124 elected to the bench as the Circuit Court Judge of District 7,
125 Place 1, Hinds County, Mississippi, and express fondest respect
126 and best wishes for continued success in this newly elected role
127 as judge and all of her future endeavors.

128 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
129 furnished to Honorable Judge Adrienne Wooten and to the members of
130 the Capitol Press Corps.

