

By: Senator(s) Hall, Dearing, Gollott,  
Gordon, Burton, Hewes, Woodfield, Smith,  
Rayborn, Lee, Jordan (24th), Hawks,  
Robertson, Horhn, Furniss, Cuevas, Johnson  
(19th), White (29th), Mettetal, Frazier, Bean

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 512  
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND  
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JERRY CLOWER.

3 WHEREAS, Jerry Clower, one of the most highly acclaimed  
4 country comedians and a member of the Grand Ole Opry since 1973,  
5 died on August 24, 1998, of cardiorespiratory failure five days  
6 after open heart surgery; and

7 WHEREAS, Clower had fallen ill on August 4th shortly before  
8 performing in Hiwassee, Georgia, at the Georgia Mountain State  
9 Fair; and

10 WHEREAS, Clower is survived by Homerline Wells Clower, his  
11 wife of 51 years, four children and several grandchildren; and

12 WHEREAS, Jerry Clower, an alumnus and former football player  
13 at Mississippi State University, was born and reared in Amite  
14 County, near Liberty, Mississippi; and

15 WHEREAS, he joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 16 and served  
16 on the aircraft carrier Bennington in the Pacific during World War  
17 II; and

18 WHEREAS, he later moved to Yazoo City, where he worked as a  
19 fertilizer salesman for Mississippi Chemical Corporation and began  
20 telling prospective customers humorous stories about his childhood  
21 to improve sales; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1970, a friend taped one of Clower's  
23 conversations and sent it to MCA Records in Nashville, Tennessee,  
24 resulting in his first comedy album and a long and lustrous  
25 story-telling career; and

26 WHEREAS, Clower's stories often involved church revivals,

27 country fairs, cotton farming or crappie fishing; and most of them  
28 were built around the famous fictitious Ledbetter clan of Amite  
29 County: Marcel, Ardel, Burnell, Raynell, W.L., Lanell, Udell,  
30 Odell, Claud, Newgene and Clovis -- 11 siblings raised by Aunt Pet  
31 and Uncle Versie; and

32 WHEREAS, a devout Southern Baptist, Clower never told any  
33 off-color stories and once hosted a Christian radio show and  
34 syndicated television show; and

35 WHEREAS, for 10 consecutive years, Clower, who wore stunning  
36 red or yellow suits, earned the top comedian awards from  
37 Billboard, Cashbox and Record World magazines; and

38 WHEREAS, Clower was a member of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry  
39 and was the first country humorist to earn a gold record; and

40 WHEREAS, in addition to his live performances, Clower has  
41 also published four best-selling books, including Ain't God Good  
42 which was published in 1975 and was the basis and title for an  
43 award-winning documentary film; and

44 WHEREAS, Jerry Clower touched the lives of everyone and will  
45 be deeply missed by not only his community and state, but also by  
46 the entire nation:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
48 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
49 we do hereby commend the life and accomplishments of Jerry Clower.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
51 furnished to Mrs. Homerline Wells Clower and be made available to  
52 the Capitol Press Corps.