

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 House and 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.