

By: Senator(s) Hall, Rayborn

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 581

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING JIMMIE "MISSISSIPPI RED"
2 MCDOWELL UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF
3 FAME.

4 WHEREAS, Jimmie "Mississippi Red" McDowell, a storied
5 sportswriter from Brookhaven and the founder of the Mississippi
6 Sports Hall of Fame, was born on March 24, 1926; and

7 WHEREAS, appropriately dubbed "America's Ambassador of
8 Football," Jimmie McDowell began his writing career at the tender
9 age of 11 when he wrote his first column entitled, "Pop Flies and
10 Errors," for the old Brookhaven Leader; and

11 WHEREAS, after graduation from Brookhaven High School, Jimmie
12 McDowell served his country from 1944-46 in the United States Navy
13 Armed Guard and received an honorable discharge; and

14 WHEREAS, Jimmie McDowell then resumed his higher education at
15 Ole Miss and received his bachelor of arts degree in education in
16 1949; and

17 WHEREAS, upon graduation Jimmie McDowell quickly rose to the
18 position of Assistant Sports Editor at the Jackson Daily News, and
19 in 1951 was named Sports Editor of the Meridian Star; and

20 WHEREAS, from 1951-55, Jimmie McDowell served as Director of
21 Public Relations and Athletic Publicity at the University of
22 Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, and in 1955, returned to
23 Jackson to accept the position of Sports Editor at the Jackson
24 Daily News; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1956, Jimmie McDowell expanded his talents to
26 television at WLBT-TV, where he hosted his own sports show, one of

27 the first ever on Mississippi television; and

28 WHEREAS, Jimmie McDowell moved north of the Mason-Dixon line
29 later in 1962 as he was named Executive Sports Editor and
30 columnist for the Trenton Times in Trenton, New Jersey, but in
31 1964, returned to Memphis, Tennessee, where he worked as Executive
32 Sports Editor and columnist for the Commercial Appeal; and

33 WHEREAS, in 1964, Jimmie McDowell was hired as Director of
34 Public Relations of the National Football Foundation and Hall of
35 Fame, and six years later in 1970, was appointed executive
36 director of the organization; and

37 WHEREAS, from 1964 until his retirement in 1991, Jimmie
38 McDowell would serve the NFFHOF as Chief Administrative Officer,
39 overall administrator of national chapters, Chief Fundraiser,
40 editor of all foundation publications, and a key organizer of the
41 Hall of Fame Bowl played originally in Birmingham, Alabama, and
42 now located in Tampa, Florida; and

43 WHEREAS, after his retirement from the NFFHOF, Jimmie
44 McDowell was named as Director of Corporate Development of the
45 Liberty Bowl in Memphis and also remained active as a consultant
46 with the NFFHOF and for the Ole Miss Loyalty Foundation, the
47 fundraising wing of the Rebel athletics; and

48 WHEREAS, feeling the itch to do even more for the sport of
49 college football, Jimmie McDowell formed the All American Football
50 Foundation in 1994, a non-profit organization which hosts a
51 Banquet of Champions and selects an All American Team after the
52 college season is completed; and

53 WHEREAS, as of March 1, 1998, there are 129 collegiate
54 members of the All American Football Foundation; and

55 WHEREAS, named Outstanding Mississippian of the Year in 1973,
56 Jimmie McDowell has received a cavalcade of awards and honors for
57 his support and relentless promotion of the sport of college
58 athletics; and

59 WHEREAS, Jimmie McDowell, a resident of Jackson, still

60 remains active in sportswriting as he has been a freelance
61 columnist for 10 newspapers in Mississippi since 1991:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
64 we do hereby congratulate and commend Jimmie "Mississippi Red"
65 McDowell upon the occasion of his induction into the Mississippi
66 Sports Hall of Fame.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
68 furnished to Jimmie McDowell and be made available to the Capitol
69 Press Corps.