

By: Senator(s) Hall, Rayborn

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 582

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING JAMES HAROL LOFTON UPON
2 HIS POSTHUMOUS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME.

3 WHEREAS, James Harol Lofton, a superbly talented athlete who
4 played halfback and fullback for Ole Miss in the early 1950's, was
5 born on February 14, 1931; and

6 WHEREAS, James Harol Lofton was a native of Brookhaven and an
7 acclaimed high school athlete at Brookhaven High School, starting
8 his celebrated high school career at the age of 14 and earning a
9 remarkable 15 letters in football, track, baseball and basketball;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, after his senior year in high school, James Harol
12 Lofton was named as the Big Eight's Most Valuable Football Player
13 and was Mississippi's No. 1 prep star, and following these honors,
14 the Touchdown Club in Brookhaven passed a resolution requesting
15 that the school board retire Lofton's No. 19 red and blue jersey;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, upon graduation from Brookhaven, James Harol Lofton
18 was actively recruited by 22 colleges, including teams from as far
19 west as Oregon State and Colorado; and

20 WHEREAS, James Harol Lofton signed with Ole Miss, earning 3
21 letters in 1951, 1952 and 1953 while playing halfback and fullback
22 for Head Coach Johnny Vaught; and

23 WHEREAS, Lofton scored 8 touchdowns for Ole Miss in 1952 and
24 ran for 24 yards in the 1953 Sugar Bowl loss to Georgia Tech; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1953, Lofton achieved All SEC status as he ran
26 219 yards with 4 scores, averaging 6.0 yards a carry, and caught

27 10 passes for 180 yards and a touchdown; and

28 WHEREAS, during his Ole Miss career, James Harol Lofton had
29 979 rushing yards, scored 12 touchdowns, averaged 5.15 yards per
30 rush, was one of 5 famous Ole Miss backs to average 5 yards a
31 carry, was tied for 6th place with 3 touchdowns for scoring in a
32 single game, and was 16th in career punting; and

33 WHEREAS, married in 1954 to the former Salena Smith from his
34 hometown, James Harol Lofton joined the U.S. Army and played
35 service football from 1955 through 1957 while stationed at Fort
36 Bliss, Texas; and

37 WHEREAS, in 1957, Lofton returned home to Brookhaven and
38 operated Lofton's Hereford Farms, and in 1962, rejoined the Army
39 as a captain and served at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, in military
40 intelligence; and

41 WHEREAS, after his military service was concluded, James
42 Harol Lofton returned to Mississippi in 1967, where he owned and
43 operated Lofton Oil Products, a Gulf Oil distributor; and

44 WHEREAS, in 1978, Lofton was critically injured when a
45 150-foot tree fell on him, never recovering physically from the
46 timber accident; and

47 WHEREAS, James Harol Lofton was diagnosed with cancer on
48 March 31, 1981, and passed away months later on June 17, 1981, at
49 the age of 50; and

50 WHEREAS, Lofton devoted countless hours as a Scout leader in
51 the Boy Scouts, and as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and a
52 member of the choir of the First Baptist Church of Brookhaven; and

53 WHEREAS, Harol and Salena Lofton had four children, Mindy L.
54 Tew, James Harol Lofton, Jr., John Carol Lofton and Joel Robert
55 Lofton:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby congratulate and commend James Harol Lofton upon the
59 occasion of his posthumous induction into the Mississippi Sports

60 Hall of Fame.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
62 furnished to the family of James Harol Lofton and be made
63 available to the Capitol Press Corps.