

By: Senator(s) Turner, Canon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 609  
(As Adopted by House and Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO COMMEND GEORGE "HAPPY" IRBY FOR  
2 HIS LIFETIME OF GIVING TO HIS COMMUNITY.

3 WHEREAS, George "Happy" Irby is 83 years old, having  
4 "retired" at the age of 80 from working 12- and 14-hour days at  
5 the Columbus Air Force Base Officers' Club to his current schedule  
6 of working only three days a week; and

7 WHEREAS, after beginning work at the Columbus Club in 1958,  
8 Happy began using the tips he earned to help the needy; and

9 WHEREAS, he attributes his interest in helping those less  
10 fortunate to his mother, whose tradition of giving he is now  
11 carrying on, and imparting to his grandchildren; and

12 WHEREAS, he has never retired from his charity work, but  
13 continues to oversee "The Happy Christmas Fund," as his outreach  
14 effort is called; and

15 WHEREAS, last year, "Happy's Fund" raised more than \$9,000.00  
16 and delivered Christmas baskets and clothing to 289 children and  
17 60 families; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Irby has received recognition for his unusual  
19 generosity of spirit: he was recognized with the prestigious  
20 Jefferson Award for Public Service in Washington, D.C., and  
21 awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Mary Holmes  
22 Community College in West Point, both in 1995, and was honored in  
23 1993 when chosen as a Columbus Wingman, an elite honor given to  
24 distinguished members of the community; and

25 WHEREAS, he was recently honored for his particular  
26 contribution by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi, who

27 named him as a Mississippi Ageless Hero in the Vitality category  
28 in January of this year; and

29 WHEREAS, Happy Irby has said, "I enjoy doing things that  
30 help. It's a blessing to help where needed. You sleep good at  
31 night whether you're broke or not."; and

32 WHEREAS, it is the practice of this Legislature to recognize  
33 those citizens of Mississippi who give of themselves and make this  
34 state a better place to live and work:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE  
36 SENATE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That we  
37 do hereby commend George "Happy" Irby who, along with his family  
38 and the enlisted and officers' spouses club, continue the labor of  
39 love he began over 40 years ago that has resulted in the  
40 community-wide charity effort known as Happy's Fund.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
42 presented to Mr. Irby.