

By: Senator(s) Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 626

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING MRS. MAE BERTHA CARTER OF
2 DREW, MISSISSIPPI, ON THE OCCASION OF THE RELEASE OF THE BOOK
3 SILVER RIGHTS BY CONSTANCE CURRY, WHICH IS THE STORY OF THE CARTER
4 FAMILY'S STRUGGLE TO EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN.

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mae Bertha Carter and her late husband,
6 Matthew, believed that education was the key to success for their
7 thirteen children; and

8 WHEREAS, the Carters decided in 1965 that their children
9 should attend the white schools of Drew (Sunflower County),
10 Mississippi, which was the option available throughout the
11 southern states to black families under the "Freedom of Choice"
12 alternative in education directed by the United States Supreme
13 Court; and

14 WHEREAS, the decision to send seven of their thirteen
15 children to the all-white school district was rooted in a
16 passionate desire to ensure that they would rise above the level
17 of sharecropper status that generations of their family had
18 endured, and resulted in over 20 years of emotional and financial
19 hardships to obtain the best education for their children and
20 making it possible for others to follow; and

21 WHEREAS, of the Carter children, eight graduated from high
22 school, all attended college and seven obtained degrees from the
23 University of Mississippi in Oxford; and

24 WHEREAS, Miss Mae Bertha's work did not stop with her own
25 family, and through Head Start and her support from the American
26 Friends Service Committee, she continued to pressure government
27 officials and encourage parents and children to obtain a better

28 education and better life for all children; and

29 WHEREAS, the Atlanta-based author, Constance Curry, has
30 recently released a new book entitled Silver Rights about the
31 Carter family's struggle; and

32 WHEREAS, through this story, we all recognize the wisdom,
33 strength, deep faith and absolute commitment of Mae Bertha Carter
34 to making justice real in the world, which serves as a beacon to
35 all Mississippi parents who want the best for their children:

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
37 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
38 we do hereby commend Mrs. Mae Bertha Carter of Drew, Mississippi,
39 on the occasion of the release of the book Silver Rights by
40 Constance Curry, which is the story of the Carter family's
41 struggle to educate their children.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
43 presented to Mrs. Mae Bertha Carter and her family and be made
44 available to the Capitol Press Corps.