

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Gordon, Minor,
Browning, Turner

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

1 A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND W.L. "DON" GRIST, CHANCELLOR OF THE
2 18TH CHANCERY COURT DISTRICT.

3 WHEREAS, Don Grist was born on April 8, 1938, in Calhoun
4 County, Mississippi; and

5 WHEREAS, the youngest child of William V. and Clara Dell
6 Grist, he attended Randolph High School; and

7 WHEREAS, after graduating in 1956, he attended Itawamba
8 Community College and the University of Southern Mississippi,
9 earning a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1963; and

10 WHEREAS, following college, he worked for the Goodyear
11 Corporation in California developing rubber seals for the NASA
12 space shuttle program; and

13 WHEREAS, Don earned the Juris Doctor degree from the Jackson
14 School of Law in 1973; and

15 WHEREAS, while working as an attorney in Vardaman, Don
16 entered the political arena in 1975 when he was elected to the
17 Mississippi House of Representatives for District 23; and

18 WHEREAS, during his 15-year career in the Legislature, he
19 served on the Ways and Means Committee, chaired the Banks and
20 Banking Committee, and served on the Local and Private,
21 Apportionment and Elections, PEER and Judiciary Committees, and
22 also worked to secure 25 nursing home beds for Calhoun County; and

23 WHEREAS, Don also served as the City Attorney for the City of
24 Vardaman; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1990, Don was elected to serve as Chancellor for
26 the 18th Chancery Court District comprised of Benton, Calhoun,

27 Lafayette, Marshall and Tippah Counties; and

28 WHEREAS, he attended the National Judicial College in Reno,
29 Nevada, in 1991, and was elected chairman of the Conference of
30 Chancery Judges in 1997; and

31 WHEREAS, during his judicial career, Chancellor Grist signed
32 some 9,000 orders with approximately 20 cases appealed and only
33 four reversed, and all decisions pending in his court were
34 rendered and complete before he left office for retirement; and

35 WHEREAS, Judge Grist's career goal was to apply the law
36 fairly and equally to all the people in his court; and

37 WHEREAS, it is the practice of this Legislature to recognize
38 the achievements of the citizens of this state:

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE
40 SENATE, That we do hereby commend W.L. "Don" Grist for his
41 contributions and dedication to the public in his service in state
42 and local government and in the judiciary. We congratulate him
43 upon his retirement from the bench, and wish him the richly
44 deserved blessings of friends and family in this new phase of his
45 life.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
47 presented to Chancellor Grist.