

By: Senator(s) Harden, Hall, Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 32

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING FORMER TOUGALOO COLLEGE PRESIDENT
2 GEORGE A. OWENS, RECIPIENT OF THE ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP AWARD
3 PRESENTED BY JACKSON 2000.

4 WHEREAS, Tougaloo College welcomed many of the nation's civil
5 rights leaders during the 1960's, and years later built bridges
6 with Jackson's business community; and

7 WHEREAS, former President George A. Owens, who served from
8 1964 to 1984, deserves much of the credit for connecting Tougaloo
9 College with the local business community; and

10 WHEREAS, Owens, Tougaloo's ninth and first black president
11 and former captain of the school's football team in 1940,
12 continues to spark change that has enriched his alma mater; and

13 WHEREAS, his community leadership and role to improve race
14 relations are why he will be one of two Mississippians honored at
15 the annual Friendship Ball as a recipient of the Friendship Award
16 presented by Jackson 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, Tougaloo hasn't forgotten him, its new \$6 Million
18 health and wellness center that includes a 2,500-seat gymnasium is
19 named for George Owens and his wife, Ruth; and

20 WHEREAS, not content to sit back and enjoy retirement in
21 Jackson, Owens has stayed active over the years with the Boy
22 Scouts, he regularly comes to programs on the Tougaloo campus and
23 remains a trusted friend to school leaders; and

24 WHEREAS, Tougaloo College has a tradition of freedom, and it
25 is with great pride that we recognize this modest man who was able
26 to build relationships between the black and white community:

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
28 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend former Tougaloo College
29 President George A. Owens upon his receipt of the Annual
30 Friendship Award sponsored by Jackson 2000, to be presented at the
31 annual Friendship Ball to be held on Saturday, February 27, 1999.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
33 presented to Mr. Owens and his family and be made available to the
34 Capitol Press Corps.