

By: Simmons, Posey, Johnson (38th), Gollott, To: Rules  
Jordan, Horhn, Harden, Dearing, Dickerson,  
Walls, Jackson, Turner, Frazier, Stogner,  
Hewes

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 536

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF DR. WALTER  
2 WASHINGTON, WHO SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY  
3 FROM 1969 TO 1994, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Walter Washington, a native of Hazlehurst,  
5 Mississippi, pioneer educator and retired President of Alcorn  
6 State University, who devoted a quarter-century of leadership to  
7 the historically black university in Lorman, Mississippi, passed  
8 away on December 1, 1999; and

9 WHEREAS, following a dozen years as President of then Utica  
10 Junior College, Dr. Washington served as Alcorn State University's  
11 president for 25 years before retiring in 1994; and

12 WHEREAS, he received his bachelor's degree from Tougaloo  
13 College, his master's degree from Indiana University, an education  
14 specialist from Peabody College, a certificate of studies from  
15 Yale University and his doctoral degree from the University of  
16 Southern Mississippi, attended Harvard University's Institute for  
17 Educational Management in 1988, received several honorary degrees  
18 including a doctor of laws from Tougaloo College, a doctor of laws  
19 from Indiana University and a doctor of science from Purdue  
20 University; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Washington was a member of several honor

22 societies and the Elks; he served on numerous boards and advisory  
23 councils in and out of the state, including Blue Cross Blue Shield  
24 of Mississippi, National Association for Equal Opportunity in  
25 Higher Education, the National Urban League's Black Executive  
26 Program, the U.S. President's Advisory Council on Historically  
27 Black Colleges and Universities and retired from the Boards of  
28 Mississippi Power and Light Company and Entergy Corporation; he  
29 served as President of the Mississippi Teachers Association and  
30 held membership in the Mississippi Association of Educators and  
31 the National Education Association; Dr. Washington received  
32 numerous awards, including the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy  
33 Scouts of America, the Service to Humanity Award from Mississippi  
34 College and state and national 4H Alumnus Recognition Awards. In  
35 1982 he was given the Outstanding Presidential Cluster Citation by  
36 President Ronald Reagan; he also was inducted into the Hall of  
37 Fame of the USM Alumni Association and has a building named after  
38 him on the Hattiesburg campus; he was listed in 12 biographical  
39 publications and was listed among Ebony's 100 Most Influential  
40 Black Americans in 1974, 1975 and 1976; he was named by the  
41 Jackson Daily News panel as one of 12 most influential  
42 Mississippians during the 70's; and he was a life member of Alpha  
43 Phi Alpha fraternity, serving two terms as southern regional vice  
44 president and two terms as general president; and

45 WHEREAS, Dr. Washington made long-lasting contributions to  
46 Mississippi higher education that earned him a national  
47 reputation, knew every member of the House and Senate and made  
48 each of them feel like they had a vested interest in his beloved  
49 Alcorn State University, and was a mentor to so many citizens of  
50 the State of Mississippi:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
52 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, THAT

53 we do hereby commend the life of Dr. Walter Washington, President  
54 of Alcorn State University from 1969 to 1994, and express the  
55 sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
57 presented to former First Lady of Alcorn State University, Dr.  
58 Carolyn Washington, and to the President of Alcorn State  
59 University, to be placed in the administration building which  
60 bears Dr. Washington's name, and be made available to the Capitol  
61 Press Corps.