

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 536
(As Adopted by Senate)

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.