

By: Michel, Gordon, Smith, Farris, Frazier, To: Rules  
King, Harvey, Kirby, Mettetal, Little,  
Hamilton, Burton, Dearing

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 583  
(As Adopted by House and Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THURMON L. "BOBBY"  
2 COLLINS, JR. FOR HIS OUTSTANDING COACHING CAREER AND  
3 CONGRATULATING HIM UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS  
4 HALL OF FAME.

5 WHEREAS, Thurmon L. "Bobby" Collins, Jr., will be inducted  
6 into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame on March 10, 2000; and

7 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins' induction into the Mississippi Sports  
8 Hall of Fame is in recognition of his coaching accomplishments and  
9 his contributions to the athletic community; and

10 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins was an outstanding high school  
11 quarterback at Laurel High School; and

12 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins played football at Mississippi State  
13 University from 1951 through 1954, lettering all four years; and

14 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins was starting quarterback and  
15 co-captain of the bulldogs in his senior season; and

16 WHEREAS, after graduation, Bobby served as backfield coach at  
17 Colorado State, Mississippi State and George Washington  
18 University; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1964, Bobby switched sides of the football and  
20 served as defensive coordinator at Virginia Tech until 1967; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1967, Bobby returned to guiding the offense when  
22 he went to North Carolina; and

23 WHEREAS, the North Carolina offense led the ACC in total  
24 offense and scoring in three of the five years that Collins  
25 coached at Chapel Hill; and

26 WHEREAS, in 1971, he was named assistant head coach and  
27 defensive coordinator of the North Carolina Tar Heels; and

28           WHEREAS, in 1975, the University of Southern Mississippi  
29 picked Bobby Collins as head coach; and

30           WHEREAS, from 1975 through 1981, Bobby led the University of  
31 Southern Mississippi football team to national prominence; and

32           WHEREAS, the hallmark of the Golden Eagle football team under  
33 Bobby's leadership was a tenacious, hard-hitting team that came to  
34 play 60 minutes of football every week; and

35           WHEREAS, Bobby led the Golden Eagles to their first two bowl  
36 appearances as a Division 1A program; and

37           WHEREAS, in 1980, his team finished with 9 wins and only 3  
38 losses with a win in the Independence Bowl; and

39           WHEREAS, in 1981, he led the Golden Eagles to a 9-2-1 mark,  
40 an appearance in the Tangerine Bowl and a ranking of 18th  
41 nationally; and

42           WHEREAS, under the enthusiastic, tireless, and charismatic  
43 leadership of Bobby Collins a unique relationship developed  
44 between Coach Collins and the Hattiesburg community, the fans, the  
45 alumni, and the team which is best described as Eagle Fever; and

46           WHEREAS, in recognition of Bobby's ability to accomplish so  
47 much with a football program with far fewer resources than those  
48 of opposing teams, SMU convinced Bobby Collins to head their  
49 football program in 1982; and

50           WHEREAS, Bobby led the SMU Mustangs to national rankings and  
51 bowl wins; and

52           WHEREAS, his team in 1982 was the only unbeaten team in the  
53 nation and finished with a No. 2 national ranking and a Cotton  
54 Bowl victory over Pittsburgh; and

55           WHEREAS, in 1983 and 1984, Bobby's Mustangs finished with ten  
56 wins and only two losses; and

57           WHEREAS, Bobby Collins was honored as the Southwest  
58 Conference Coach of the Year in 1982; and

59           WHEREAS, his 1983, SMU team has the unique distinction of  
60 playing in three bowl games in one year by playing in the Cotton

61 Bowl in January, the Mirage Bowl in Tokyo, Japan, on November 26,  
62 and the Sun Bowl on December 24; and

63 WHEREAS, in 1986, Bobby retired from coaching and returned  
64 home to Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and

65 WHEREAS, in 1992, USM President Aubrey Lucas called upon  
66 Bobby Collins to assist in building the USM Eagle Club; and

67 WHEREAS, under Bobby's leadership, the USM Eagle Club set new  
68 fundraising and membership records; and

69 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins has earned the respect and admiration  
70 of his peers, his players and all who have been fortunate to know  
71 Bobby; and

72 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize the  
73 accomplishments and contributions of its outstanding citizens:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
75 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
76 we do hereby commend Thurmon L. "Bobby" Collins, Jr., for his  
77 outstanding accomplishments in his coaching career and his  
78 contributions to his state and community and congratulate him upon  
79 his induction into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
81 presented to Bobby Collins.