

By: Michel, Gordon, Smith, Frazier, Kirby,
Farris, Mettetal, Little, Hamilton, Burton,
Dearing

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 584
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING ALL-PRO
2 DEFENSIVE END AND OKOLONA NATIVE JACK GREGORY UPON HIS INDUCTION
3 INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2000.

4 WHEREAS, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports
5 Hall of Fame have unveiled the historic Class of 2000 which
6 features Jack Gregory, the Okolona native who played at Delta
7 State and was an All-Pro defensive end for the Cleveland Browns
8 and New York Giants; and

9 WHEREAS, Jack Gregory is one of the all-time defensive ends
10 in professional football who played for the NFL's Cleveland Browns
11 and New York Giants; born in Tupelo and raised in Okolona, Earl
12 Jackson Gregory, Jr., was a 4-year football letterman at Okolona
13 High School from 1958 through his graduation in 1962; like so many
14 athletes of his era, Jack played on the football and basketball
15 teams and was a member of the track squad; he was an All-Tombigbee
16 Conference player on the gridiron and the basketball court in
17 1962, his senior season; he received the Sportsmanship Award in
18 1961 for his football activities and he was a member of the first
19 Okolona High School track team to win the Tombigbee Conference
20 meet and a District title in 1962; although he only participated
21 in track in his senior year, Jack was active in the shot put,
22 relay and high jump events; he finished first in the shot put in
23 the conference finals, second in the District, and fourth place in
24 the state championship meet; following graduation, Jack left
25 Okolona and arrived at the University of Chattanooga, where he
26 played tight end and defensive end from 1962 through 1965; he was

27 an Honorable Mention All-American for the UTC Moccasins in 1965;
28 Jack was drafted by two professional football teams as a future
29 junior: in the 9th round of a special NFL draft by the Cleveland
30 Browns and by the AFL's Buffalo Bills. Instead of entering the
31 pro-football draft wars, he transferred to Delta State, where he
32 again played tight end and defensive end plus used his skills at
33 linebacker; Gregory set a Statesmen school record in 1966 by
34 gaining 557 yards on pass receptions at the tight end position; as
35 a member of the Delta State track team, he broke another record by
36 taking first place in the shot put in the 1966 Southwestern
37 Invitational Tack Meet in Memphis; he began his pro-football
38 career with the Cleveland Browns, the team his father, Jack
39 Gregory, Sr., played guard for in the 1940's; nicknamed "Big Jack"
40 in the pros, Gregory was a dominating defensive end in the NFL;
41 after he spent two years learning the ropes, Jack emerged as an
42 All-Pro player; performing for the legendary Blanton Collier,
43 Gregory led a swarming Cleveland defense; at 6'-5", 250 pounds,
44 Jack showed he had a knack for the linebacker position with his
45 size and speed; he spent the first two seasons at defensive end or
46 tackle and was excellent in pass rushing situations; Jack usually
47 had to catch up in the summer Browns' camp in his early days as he
48 took time out to serve the Mississippi National Guard at Camp
49 Shelby; he served in the Guard a total of six years from 1967
50 through 1973 in the 223 Engineering Battalion, Company C, in
51 Okolona; succeeding Browns standout Bill Glass on the right side
52 of the line in 1968, Jack became one of the best quarterback
53 sackers in the league who could stop the run with equal ability;
54 he had an outstanding year in 1969 and was selected for the Pro
55 Bowl along with 7 other Browns teammates: QB Bill Nelson, WR Paul
56 Warfield, RB Leroy Kelly, center Fred Hoaglin, tackle Walt
57 Johnson, LB Jim Houston, and MSHOF member and former Ole Miss
58 guard Gene Hickerson; for his performance on and off the field in
59 1969, the Okolona Chamber of Commerce honored him with an
60 appreciation award; Jack said that being named to the Pro Bowl was
61 one of the happiest days of his life; he played for the East in
62 the game played in Los Angeles on January 4, 1970; Gregory

63 followed up his pro bowl year by being named the Stan Cofall Award
64 winner as the Outstanding Defensive Player of the Year presented
65 by the Cleveland Touchdown Club; one of Jack's more gratifying
66 moments of his career happened in the Browns' opener of the 1970
67 season against the New York Jets when Gregory sacked QB Joe Namath
68 in the first ABC Monday Night football game ever aired; it was
69 nothing personal as Jack said that Broadway Joe represented one of
70 the best QB's in the business; after the sack, Jack said: "I
71 waited a long, long time for that"; Jack was tutored at Cleveland
72 by defensive line coach and NFL Hall of Famer Dick Modzelewski;
73 during the off season, Jack operated a farm in Okolona where he
74 raised cotton, soybeans, hay, cattle and quarter horses; Gregory's
75 first stint with the Browns lasted from 1967 through 1972 when he
76 played out his option contract with Cleveland; rejecting offers
77 from the Browns' management, Jack made history by becoming the
78 first Cleveland player to become a free agent; after negotiating
79 with the Washington Redskins, the Miami Dolphins, the New Orleans
80 Saints plus a team in the Canadian Football League, Gregory inked
81 a deal with the New York Giants; in exchange for signing Jack, the
82 Giants had to compensate the Browns and gave up their first two
83 picks in the 1973 NFL draft; Jack became an instant defensive star
84 in the Big Apple, playing for the next 7 seasons; in 1972, Jack
85 had his finest season by leading the NFL in quarterback sacks with
86 21 and he was runner-up to NFL Defensive Player of the Year
87 honors; he finished second in the balloting for the MVP award in
88 the league; the New Jersey Giant Fan Club awarded him their MVP
89 award and he was presented the Phil King Memorial Award by the
90 Giants organization; Jack was named first team All-NFL by UPI and
91 the Pro Football Writers and he appeared in his second Pro Bowl;
92 he toured Vietnam on a USO Tour in February 1972, and received a
93 certificate of appreciation for "Contribution to Morale and
94 Welfare of the U.S. and other Military Forces in the Republic of
95 Vietnam"; Jack received this award from General Creighton W.
96 Abrams of the U.S. Army at the U.S. Military Assistance Command
97 post in Saigon; he was also listed as one of the most Outstanding
98 Men of America in 1972; Gregory emerged as the captain of the

99 Giants defense for 5 seasons in New York; after another solid year
100 in 1974, Jack played in his third Pro Bowl; in the 1975 season,
101 Jack again had the most quarterback sacks on the team and was
102 named the Giants' MVP and Defensive Player of the Year; through
103 six seasons, Gregory had a total of 73 quarterback sacks, one of
104 the leading totals in the league during this era of fantastic pass
105 rushers; during his playing days in the NFL, durable Jack only
106 missed 4 games: the last 3 games of the year in 1976 when he sat
107 out due to a knee injury and one exhibition game; he scored his
108 only touchdown in a pro game in 1977, when he scooped up a fumble
109 and ran it 38 yards into the end zone in a pre-season game against
110 his old team, the Browns; he had another banner year in 1977 as he
111 racked up a Giants team record 91 tackles with 32 solos, 59
112 assists and 9 QB sacks; following the 1977 campaign, Jack once
113 again became a free agent and weighed his option for signing with
114 another NFL team; he eventually came to terms with the Giants
115 through the 1979 season; Jack inked his new contract at Giants
116 Stadium before the showing of the Giant's highlight film for 1977
117 entitled "Striving for the Goal"; Jack played his 13th and final
118 season of pro football in 1979 at his old stomping grounds in
119 Cleveland; his numbers for QB sacks in a career rank among the
120 best in the annals of the NFL record book; in the all-time records
121 of the Giants, Jack ranks 6th with 65 sacks in his 6 seasons
122 behind New York greats Lawrence Taylor, Jim Katcavage, George
123 Martin, Leonard Marshall and Andy Robustelli; he is second on the
124 Browns QB sack leaders for a season, trailing the man he replaced,
125 Bill Glass, by only half a sack with 14 in 1970; already deeply
126 involved in his community, Jack returned home after his pro
127 football career and established himself as a superb citizen; the
128 State of Mississippi recognized Jack for his accomplishments in
129 1978 in House Concurrent Resolution No. 67, which commended
130 Gregory for his pro football playing career; in the same year, on
131 August 4-5, Okolona held an Appreciation Day Festival honoring
132 Jack; "Big Jack" is no stranger to Hall of Fame induction as he
133 was enshrined into the Delta State Sports Hall of Fame in 1985 and
134 named to the All-time Kappa Alpha Fraternity Alumni Pro Football

135 Hall of Fame; Jack is most noted in Mississippi charity circles
136 for his incredible devotion of time and talent to the Easter
137 Seals; he participated in the Easter Seal Telethon from 1975
138 through 1991; Jack was named to the National Easter Seal Sports
139 Council in 1978 and was a Mississippi Easter Seal Family in 1979;
140 he served as President of the Easter Seal Board of Directors in
141 1988; from 1978 through 1984, Jack organized and hosted the Jack
142 Gregory Easter Seal Rodeo, which gathered contributions of over
143 \$40,000.00; since 1980, Jack has co-hosted the Easter Seal
144 telethon along with WLBT-TV's weatherman Woody Asaaf; the pair
145 have raised millions of dollars through their time and efforts;
146 Jack was honored in 1990 with an Easter Seal Reception for 15
147 years of service to the Easter Seal Society and the Telethon; the
148 Mississippi House of Representatives in House Resolution No. 34
149 recognized Gregory for his Easter Seal endeavors; one year later,
150 in 1991, Jack was honored at the Easter Seal National Convention
151 with an award for the longest service by a professional athlete in
152 America as a telethon host; following his football career, Jack
153 has led a diversified life in the business world, balancing his
154 time with his charity work and farming chores; he served as a
155 scout for the Denver Broncos for 3 years and was a talent scout
156 for the Ed Keaty Financial Management Corporation; a well-known
157 auctioneer, Jack worked for the Yokley & Lundy Auction Company out
158 of Belzoni and the Dewitt Auction Company from Sikeston, Missouri;
159 he was the Founder, Vice President, Ring Master and Auctioneer for
160 the Rebel Auction Company; he is the President of Jack Gregory,
161 Jr., Enterprises, a furniture company, and he remains active as a
162 cattleman; Jack has been Executive Director of the Mississippi
163 Association of Supervisors in Jackson since 1993; an "Okolona
164 Icon," Jack maintains membership in the Okolona Presbyterian
165 Church, the Okolona Country Club and the Okolona American Legion:

166 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
167 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That

168 we do hereby commend and congratulate All-Pro Defensive End and
169 Okolona native Jack Gregory upon his induction into the
170 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2000, and wish him
171 continued success in his future endeavors.

172 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
173 presented to Jack Gregory and his family at induction ceremonies
174 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.