

By: Michel, Gordon, Smith, Frazier, Farris, Kirby, Hamilton, Burton, Dearing To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 585
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 SUPERSTAR BASKETBALL PLAYER PURVIS SHORT UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO
3 THE HISTORIC CLASS OF 2000 OF THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME.

4 WHEREAS, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports
5 Hall of Fame has unveiled the historic Class of 2000 of the
6 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, with induction ceremonies to take
7 place on Friday, March 10, 2000, in Jackson; and

8 WHEREAS, the MSHOF Class of 2000 features Purvis Short, the
9 superstar basketball player from Hattiesburg who starred for
10 Jackson State and NBA teams, and whose career is a matter of
11 record; and

12 WHEREAS, after a stellar high school career at Blair High in
13 Hattiesburg, Purvis attended Jackson State from 1974 through 1978;
14 he was a 3-time All-American and All-SWAC player for the Tigers;
15 in his freshman season of 1974-1975, he combined with his brother
16 Eugene to pace JSU to a 25-4 record; in that season, Purvis
17 averaged 15.1 points while Eugene was the 6th leading scorer in
18 the nation with 26.6 points per game; Purvis and his brother,
19 Eugene, were probably the best known basketball brother tandem in
20 Mississippi sports history; with the Short brothers pouring in the
21 points, the Tigers averaged 95.5 points per game; after Eugene
22 completed his college career and was the first round draft choice
23 (10th pick overall) of the New York Knicks in 1975, Purvis became
24 the most prolific scorer in Jackson State history; in his
25 sophomore year, Purvis averaged 25.5 points per game and he
26 notched an average of 24.8 a game in his junior campaign; Short
27 had an incredible senior season as he was named the SWAC Most

28 Valuable Player and Player of the Year for 1977-1978; he averaged
29 29.5 points and 11.4 rebounds per game and was named to the
30 All-Tournament Team of the prestigious Aloha Classic All Star
31 game; in Purvis' first two seasons, Jackson State played in
32 Division 2 and moved up to Division 1 in his senior year; Short
33 finished his college career as the nation's third leading scorer
34 with his 29.5 average as only Portland State's Freeman Williams
35 (35.9) and Indiana State's Larry Bird (30) had higher averages;
36 overall, Short guided JSU to a 93-23 record and shattered the
37 Tiger scoring standards; his single season records include:
38 highest scoring average of 29.5 points per game (1977-1978), most
39 field goal attempts of 635 (1975-1976), and most field goals made
40 of 324 (1975-1976); Short's career marks with the Tigers include:
41 most points scored - 2,434, highest scoring average per game -
42 23.8; most field goals attempted - 2,036, and most field goals
43 made -- 1,087; Purvis averaged 9.3 rebounds in his Jackson State
44 career; drafted out of college by the Golden State Warriors, Short
45 was the 5th player selected overall in the first round of the NBA
46 draft in 1978; he played 9 seasons for the Warriors from 1978
47 through 1987; Purvis was named to the NBA All-Rookie Team in his
48 first season in 1978-1979 by averaging 10.6 points per game; he
49 led the team in scoring his second season by scoring 17 points a
50 game; Purvis ranks among Golden State career leaders in 9
51 categories: games, points, field goals made and attempted, free
52 throws made and attempted, minutes played, steals, and free throw
53 shooting percentage; a captain and player representative for the
54 Warriors, Purvis made his home in San Ramon, California, in the
55 off season; Short played in 3 of the 10 Most Memorable Games in
56 the Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum Arena; in the 10th rated
57 Memorable Game, Purvis scored 22 points and pulled down 11
58 rebounds as the Warriors beat the Boston Celtics 121-106 on
59 January 2, 1981; the game is known as the worst game Larry Bird of
60 the Celtics ever played in the NBA as he was held to 0 for 9 from
61 the floor with no points, no free throw attempts, 7 rebounds, 6
62 assists and 3 turnovers in 37 minutes of play; in the 8th rated
63 Memorable Game, Purvis hit his stride as an NBA player in the

64 middle of a four-year run in which he averaged more than 20 points
65 a game and featured a rainbow jump shot that was virtually
66 unstoppable; Golden State downed the San Antonio Spurs 154-133 in
67 a wild game played on January 7, 1984; Purvis had 23 points by
68 halftime as the Warriors led 72-68; Spurs' star George Gervin
69 nearly matched Short with 20 points at the half; at the end of the
70 third quarter, the Warriors led 107-104 and Short had 35 points;
71 the Spurs, in a desperate attempt to stop Purvis, triple teamed
72 Short, an incredible defense for an outside shooter in the NBA;
73 two three-pointers, three-jumpers and a few free throws later,
74 Short left the court to thunderous applause and a then-career high
75 and NBA season-high 57 points to go with 15 rebounds in the
76 Warriors' win; Purvis would later comment: "It was just one of
77 those nights when the basket looked as big as ever and everything
78 I threw up went in"; the 57-point performance brought Purvis NBA
79 Player of the Week honors; in the game voted Most Memorable on the
80 Warriors' home court, Purvis scored 14 points and watched Sleepy
81 Floyd put on an amazing 51-point display with 29 points in 11
82 minutes of play in the fourth quarter; Golden State edged the
83 vaunted Los Angeles Lakers 129-121 on May 10, 1987, in the Western
84 Conference Semifinals, a series the Warriors would eventually lose
85 in Game 5; Purvis and his teammates were behind by 14 points until
86 Floyd poured in 14 straight points and brought the Warriors to a
87 3-point lead late in the game; Short recorded his only
88 triple-double in 1980-1981 with 19 points, 10 rebounds and 12
89 assists against Kansas City; in the 1984-1985 campaign Purvis had
90 one of his finest years in pro-basketball; he posted a career high
91 of 59 points against New Jersey on November 17, 1984, and was the
92 4th leading scorer in the NBA; he averaged 28 points per game in
93 78 games played, scored in double figures every time he played; he
94 scored 20-29 points 28 times, 40 or more points in 8 games, and
95 had a 7-game stretch in November in which he averaged 34.3 points
96 per game; on November 5, 1987, the day before the 1987-1988 NBA
97 season began, Purvis was traded to the Houston Rockets for Dave
98 Feitl, nonlottery first round draft picks in 1989, 1990 and 1991,
99 plus cash; he played in 81 games his first year in Houston, making

100 a comeback from injuries that limited his playing time at Golden
101 State; during his NBA playing days, Short endured injuries to his
102 left knee, left heel, right thigh and shoulder; his career best
103 shooting performance came against his old team on December 5,
104 1987, as he was an amazing 13 for 15 from the field for a shooting
105 percentage of .837; he put on a spectacular show against Golden
106 State and in the first half of a December 8, 1987, contest against
107 the Sacramento Kings; after hitting on 13 of 15 against the
108 Warriors, Short made 7 of 10 against the Kings, a 20 of 25
109 performance in 6 quarters of play; following the Ralph Sampson
110 trade, Purvis emerged as the Rockets' sixth man; he came off the
111 bench in 60 of the last 62 games of the season and only started 11
112 games the entire season; he led Houston in scoring in 9 of those
113 games; Purvis is one of only 3 Houston players to have 10,000 or
114 more career points and he was one of 3 Rockets who had played 10
115 or more seasons in the league; he topped the 30-point mark 103
116 times, 40 or more points on 18 occasions, and he busted 50 points
117 twice in his career; Short completed his pro-basketball playing
118 days with the New Jersey Nets in the 1989-1990 season, taking the
119 court for a career high 82 games; overall, in his NBA career,
120 Purvis played in 842 games, 347 as a started; he scored 14,607
121 points, with 3,625 rebounds, 2,123 assists and 878 steals; his
122 per-game NBA averages were 17.3 points, 4.3 rebounds, and 2.5
123 assists; in the playoffs, he played in 18 games, 2 as a started;
124 he scored 187 points, pulled down 52 boards, and had 30 assists in
125 post season play; Short's playoff averages were 10.4 points, 2.9
126 rebounds, and 1.7 assists; Purvis has dedicated time and effort to
127 many charity causes; he works with the Boys Club and the Black
128 United Fund and makes many appearances for numerous charities; he
129 is no stranger to Hall of Fame induction, as he was enshrined into
130 the SWAC Hall of Fame in 1998; and

131 WHEREAS, Purvis currently resides in Houston and serves as
132 the Director of Player Programs for the NBA Players Association;

133 he and his wife, Sandra, have two sons, Derrick, age 16, and
134 Devan, age 8; and

135 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this sports
136 superstar who has brought honor to his university, his community
137 and to the State of Mississippi:

138 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
139 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
140 we do hereby commend and congratulate superstar Basketball Player
141 Purvis Short upon his induction into the Historic Class of 2000 of
142 the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, and wish him continued
143 success in his future endeavors.

144 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
145 presented to Purvis Short at induction ceremonies and be made
146 available to the Capitol Press Corps.