

By: Blackmon, Frazier, Dearing, Bryan

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 667

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES
2 FOR DR. RONALD MASON, JR., PRESIDENT OF JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Ronald Mason, Jr., assumed the presidency of
4 Jackson State University on February 1, 2000, bringing a wealth of
5 experience in higher education, community development and legal
6 issues; and

7 WHEREAS, at the time of his appointment by the Board of
8 Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning, Dr. Mason was
9 serving as Executive Director for the Tulane-Xavier National
10 Center for the Urban Community in New Orleans, Louisiana; and

11 WHEREAS, as founder and Executive Director of the
12 Tulane-Xavier Center, Dr. Mason coordinated the two universities'
13 extensive involvement in public housing, economic development and
14 public education; and

15 WHEREAS, in this unique role, Dr. Mason oversaw the recovery
16 for the housing authority, including the involvement of Tulane and
17 Xavier faculty, students and staff in developing model programs to
18 stimulate resident self-sufficiency and to implement welfare
19 reform and welfare-to-work programs through the Tulane-Xavier
20 Campus Affiliates Program and the Tulane Institute for Resident
21 Initiatives; and

22 WHEREAS, during his 18 years at Tulane, Dr. Mason served in
23 several capacities, including Senior Vice President and General
24 Counsel, and Vice President for Finance and Operations; and

25 WHEREAS, his accomplishments at Tulane included establishing
26 the Tulane-Xavier-Loyola-Dillard Martin Luther King Week for Peace

27 and bringing to Tulane the Amistad Research Center, one of the
28 nation's largest collections of original documents and art on the
29 experience of minorities in the United States; and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. Mason was the principal investigator on a grant
31 awarded by the Ford Foundation to explore the issue of racism in
32 higher education with presidents of highly selective southern
33 universities, and spent six weeks in Kenya and Tanzania, East
34 Africa, as Tulane's representative on the Louisiana Consortium for
35 Higher Education; and

36 WHEREAS, Dr. Mason is involved in numerous public service
37 activities, including membership on the following boards: the
38 Southern Development Foundation, the University of Dayton and
39 First American Community Development Corporation; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Mason is the recipient of the Mayors Medal of
41 Honor from the City of New Orleans and the Martin Luther King
42 Lifetime Achievement Award from Dillard-Loyola-Tulane and Xavier
43 Universities; and

44 WHEREAS, as President of Jackson State University, Dr. Mason
45 will serve on the Boards of the West Jackson Community Development
46 Corporation; Capital Center, Inc.; Jackson Medical Mall
47 Foundation; Mississippi Technology; and the Mississippi
48 Telecommunications Conference and Training Center Commission; and

49 WHEREAS, Dr. Mason earned his BA and JD degrees from Columbia
50 University, and is also a graduate of the Harvard Institute of
51 Educational Management; and

52 WHEREAS, Dr. Mason is married to Belinda DeCuir Mason, and
53 has one daughter, Nia, and two sons, Jared and Kenan:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
56 we do hereby recognize the inaugural ceremonies for Dr. Ronald
57 Mason, Jr., President of Jackson State University, to be held on
58 October 20, 2000, and wish him success during his tenure.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
60 presented to Dr. Ronald Mason and made available to the Capitol
61 Press Corps.