

By: Senator(s) Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 566

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING  
2 PROFESSOR RONALD OTTO SCHNELL UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE 2001 ARTS  
3 PIONEER AWARD OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS.

4 WHEREAS, Professor Ronald Otto Schnell is the 2001 recipient  
5 of the Arts Pioneer Award of the Governor's Awards for Excellence  
6 in the Arts; and

7 WHEREAS, as a young teacher on the campus of Tougaloo College  
8 in the early 1960's, Ronald Otto Schnell came to Tougaloo at a  
9 time when the school was interwoven in the fibers of the Civil  
10 Rights Movement; and

11 WHEREAS, born and raised in southwestern Germany, Professor  
12 Schnell was heir to a rich cultural tradition and he arrived in  
13 Mississippi 38 years ago determined to make art a viable  
14 ingredient in the total education of students at Tougaloo; and

15 WHEREAS, amid all the turmoil and sometimes physically  
16 threatening circumstances during those remarkable times, Professor  
17 Schnell stayed focused on his goal because he realized that  
18 exposure to art is a mechanism for building bridges between  
19 cultures and for promoting tolerance; and

20 WHEREAS, Professor Schnell's vision and steadfast resolve has  
21 resulted in the widely-known Tougaloo Art Collection, which  
22 includes more than 2,000 pieces of African, American and European  
23 works; and

24 WHEREAS, as one supporter wrote: "Professor Schnell was able  
25 to envision, as those engaged in life and death struggles could  
26 not, the importance of aesthetics in the process of social  
27 change."; and

28           WHEREAS, over the past several decades, more than 100 museums  
29 and galleries throughout the United States have shown pieces from  
30 this incredible collection; and

31           WHEREAS, retired from the classroom, Professor Schnell's  
32 legacy continues through this collection, which is a true  
33 Mississippi treasure:

34           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
35 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
36 we do hereby commend and congratulate Professor Ronald Otto  
37 Schnell upon his receipt of the 2001 Arts Pioneer Award of the  
38 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts, and wish him  
39 continued success in his future artistic endeavors.

40           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
41 presented to Professor Schnell and his family at The Awards  
42 Ceremony to be held on Friday, February 9, 2001, and be made  
43 available to the Capitol Press Corps.