

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Gordon, Michel,
Frazier, Harden, Ross

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 580

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF ROBERT SILBER
2 MCGOWAN AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS
3 UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Colonel Robert Silber McGowan, Director of Grace
5 House, departed this life on February 4, 2001; and

6 WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan was the first director of Grace
7 House, a home for living, for people who have the HIV disease; and

8 WHEREAS, as the only full-time employee of this ministry,
9 Colonel McGowan was responsible for the safety and well-being of
10 the residents, fundraising, fiscal accountability and maintenance
11 of house and grounds; and

12 WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan was a spokesman for Grace House and
13 provided the community with general awareness of the HIV disease,
14 serving on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, during his military career, Colonel McGowan served
17 his country in the Army as an enlisted man, a cadet at West Point
18 and an officer for more than 31 years; and

19 WHEREAS, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Colonel
20 McGowan earned his master's degree from Columbia University in New
21 York City and was an assistant professor on the faculty of his
22 alma mater for four years; and

23 WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan's military service included combat
24 duty in Korea, service on the White House staff and three
25 volunteer tours of duty in Vietnam, spanning ten years from
26 1963-1972, where he was wounded in action three times; and

27 WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan commanded the Third Squadron, Fourth
28 U.S. Cavalry of the 25th Infantry Division during some of the
29 heaviest fighting of the war; and

30 WHEREAS, after other commands and retiring from active
31 service, Colonel McGowan served on the International Staff at NATO
32 Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium; and

33 WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan was a graduate of the National War
34 College, the Army War College, the State Department Senior Seminar
35 in Foreign Policy and the Army Command and General Staff College;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, his military awards included the Army Distinguished
38 Service Cross, four Silver Star Medals, two Distinguished Flying
39 Crosses, three Purple Hearts, eight Bronze Star Medals (five for
40 valor), thirty-six Air Medals, three Legions of Merit, the Combat
41 Infantryman's Badge, the Presidential Service Badge and other
42 decorations; and

43 WHEREAS, Robert Silber McGowan will be sorely missed by his
44 wife, children, grandchildren, a brother and sister, and a host of
45 other relatives and friends:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
47 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
48 we do hereby commend the life of Robert Silber McGowan and express
49 our deepest sympathy to his family upon his passing.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
51 furnished to the family of Colonel Robert S. McGowan and made
52 available to the Capitol Press Corps.