

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Turner, Chamberlin, Robertson, Carlton, Farris, Walls To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 602

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING PROFESSOR MICHAEL
2 FEATHERSTONE UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

3 WHEREAS, Professor Michael Featherstone has taught at the
4 University of Mississippi School of Law since 1972, specializing
5 in the areas of property law, civil procedure, family law, eminent
6 domain and youth court; and

7 WHEREAS, Professor Featherstone was educated at Davidson
8 College, from which he was graduated in 1963; and

9 WHEREAS, he earned the Juris Doctor degree from the
10 University of South Carolina in 1970 and the L.L.M. from the
11 University of Georgia in 1971; and

12 WHEREAS, he has published articles in professional journals,
13 as well as authoring books including Law: A Way of Life in
14 Mississippi (1973), Mississippi Youth Court Guidebook (1985 and
15 1988), Mississippi Eminent Domain (1991 and 2000), and Mississippi
16 Family Law (1991); and

17 WHEREAS, in his 30-year teaching career, he has had the
18 opportunity to directly influence the legal education of hundreds
19 of students who have gone on to become practicing lawyers and
20 leaders in our state; and

21 WHEREAS, his students and former students hold him in both
22 respect and affection; and

23 WHEREAS, his bearing as a former officer of the United States
24 Army (1963-1965) and tough teaching style earned him the sobriquet
25 of "Iron Mike"; and

26 WHEREAS, his Section II property class in the Fall of 1982
27 was even moved to honor and thank him with their originally-
28 composed "Ballad of Iron Mike"; and

29 WHEREAS, one hallmark of his teaching method was to require
30 the student called upon to come to the front of the class to give
31 an analysis of the case being discussed; and

32 WHEREAS, one freshman student confused the dissent with the
33 majority opinion, whereupon Professor Featherstone pronounced:
34 "Keep doing that and one day you'll be on the Supreme Court"; and

35 WHEREAS, that student was Justice Bill Waller, Jr.; and

36 WHEREAS, Professor Featherstone once humorously told another
37 student: "You've been here six or seven years now; maybe you'll
38 amount to something"; and

39 WHEREAS, that student was Governor Ronnie Musgrove; and

40 WHEREAS, he taught as an Assistant Professor of Law at Mercer
41 University for one year before joining the faculty at Ole Miss;
42 and

43 WHEREAS, he was convinced that the University of Mississippi
44 was the one school where he did not ever want to teach; and

45 WHEREAS, he remains grateful to this day to fellow professor
46 Tommy Etheridge for convincing him otherwise, because he has had a
47 very satisfying career teaching at Ole Miss and has come to love
48 Mississippi and to regard it as his home; and

49 WHEREAS, he is married to the former Sally Ware of whom he
50 says: "We were married as teenagers and have been together ever
51 since" and "If not for Sally, none of these good things would have
52 happened"; and

53 WHEREAS, he and his wife intend to continue to live in their
54 home in Oxford in retirement, with frequent visits to Pickwick;
55 and

56 WHEREAS, they are blessed to have four children, Cathy,
57 Janie, Mike and Sam; and

58 WHEREAS, it is the desire and pleasure of this Legislature to
59 commend Michael Featherstone, Professor of Law at the University
60 of Mississippi School of Law, for his faithful dedication to both
61 his students and the legal profession through the span of his
62 career in teaching:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
64 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
65 Michael Featherstone is hereby commended for his devotion to his
66 students and the law over the past thirty years, and we
67 congratulate him upon his retirement and wish him happiness and
68 health in the years to come in the company of his wife, family and
69 friends.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
71 given to Professor Featherstone.