

By: Representative Stevens

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAMES "JOE" FERGUSON AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST
3 SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, James "Joe" Ferguson, of Washington, D.C., departed
5 this life on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, in wake of the tragic
6 attack on America, causing a great loss to his family and friends;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Joe Ferguson, born in 1962, was a native of Durant,
9 Mississippi, and the son of Mrs. Barbara Harrell of Durant,
10 Mississippi, and graduated from Durant High School in 1980; and

11 WHEREAS, Joe Ferguson's higher education matriculation
12 consisted of attending Holmes Community College during the summers
13 of 1979 and 1980, and receiving his bachelor of science degree in
14 geography from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1984,
15 after which he enrolled in the graduate program at Southwestern
16 University in San Marcus, Texas, before transferring to Ohio
17 University in Athens, Ohio, where he received his master's degree
18 in geography; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1987, while working on his graduate studies at
20 Ohio University, Joe Ferguson was selected in a national
21 competition to intern at the National Geographic Society in
22 Washington, D.C., and for this scholastic achievement was honored
23 by the House of Representatives; and

24 WHEREAS, the selection of Joe Ferguson as an intern for the
25 National Geographic Society was an outstanding achievement as he
26 was the first Mississippian ever chosen to participate in the
27 society's intern program; and



28 WHEREAS, Joe Ferguson, a fourteen-year veteran of the
29 National Geographic Society, most recently served as Director of
30 Geography Education Outreach Program, and through his passion and
31 dedication had become a creative leader of the society team
32 charged with enhancing the teaching and learning of geography in
33 classrooms throughout America; and

34 WHEREAS, in addition to his duties at the National Geographic
35 Society, he was a Board Member of the Geography Education National
36 Implementation Project (GENIP), member of the National Council for
37 Geography Education, the National Council for Social Studies, the
38 National Middle School Association, and devoted much of his time
39 to tutoring math and serving as mentor for the students in his
40 neighborhood middle school; and

41 WHEREAS, at the moment of his untimely death, Joe Ferguson
42 was in the process of accompanying three area school
43 teacher-student pairs on an educational trip to the Channel
44 Islands National Marine Sanctuary near Santa Barbara, California;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, his final hours in service to young citizens through
47 his association with the National Geographic Society reveal the
48 depth of his commitment to others and to one of the things he
49 truly loved--the study of geography; and

50 WHEREAS, Joe Ferguson was an active member of Unity Church of
51 Washington, D.C., and leaves the following survivors to cherish
52 his memory: mother, Barbara Harrell; brother, Randy Ferguson;
53 grandfather, Bob Noyes; and his beloved dog, Winston; and

54 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds it most appropriate to pay
55 special tribute to an outstanding Mississippian such as James
56 "Joe" Ferguson, a man who dedicated his life to serving God and
57 his family, as well as to enhancing the quality of geographic
58 education within the United States:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
60 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING



61 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life of James "Joe"
62 Ferguson and express our deepest sympathy to his family and
63 friends upon his passing.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
65 furnished to the family of James "Joe" Ferguson and to the members
66 of the Capitol Press Corps.

