

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 513

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC
2 SERVICE LEGACY OF REVERED SCOTT COUNTY BUSINESSMAN AND FORMER
3 FOREST MAYOR FRED L. GADDIS, SR., AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Fred L. Gaddis, Sr., 79, a former Mayor of Forest
6 and a retired businessman, died on Sunday, December 9, 2001; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Gaddis was a Springfield community, Scott County
8 native. He attended Mississippi State University at the age of 16
9 where he worked as a custodian in the cafeteria. He also attended
10 the University of Southern Mississippi before entering the Navy
11 and becoming a pilot. He returned to Scott County in 1947, he was
12 a pioneer in the poultry industry and he started the Mississippi
13 Broiler Festival. Mr. Gaddis started his first poultry plant with
14 only \$1,664.63. He built Gaddis Industries, which included Gaddis
15 Packing Company, Gaddis Farms, Inc., Gaddis Hatcheries, Inc.,
16 Gaddis Feed Mill, Little Princess Packing Plant, Scott Equity
17 Company and 38 poultry farms. He also organized and built Central
18 By-Products, Ltd. and Farm Fish, Inc., in Belzoni; and

19 WHEREAS, Mr. Gaddis served as Mayor of Forest for 32 years.
20 While he was Mayor his mission was always serving the people. One
21 of his first goals as Mayor was to see that all city streets were
22 paved and lighted. He was instrumental in encouraging the growth
23 of industry in Forest. While serving as Mayor, a new city sewage
24 treatment facility, community center, library, fire station,
25 airport, Scott County/Forest Coliseum (a leading venue in the
26 state for equine activities) and City Hall were built. One of the
27 city parks is named for him. During construction, Mr. Gaddis



28 volunteered his time, equipment and expense to build the tennis
29 facility; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Gaddis had been recognized on state, national
31 and world levels. He served as the President of the Mississippi
32 Poultry Organization. He represented the U.S. government at the
33 World's Food Fair in Tokyo and Hong Kong. His portrait now hangs
34 in the Mississippi State University Poultry Hall of Fame and in
35 the Mississippi Agricultural Museum for his contributions to
36 agriculture. He was a patron of excellence at Mississippi State
37 University. He furnished the first herd of Charolais cattle for
38 Mississippi State Experiment Station. He and his wife were guests
39 of the French government in 1968 at the French Charolais Show; and

40 WHEREAS, before there was a federal lunch program
41 established, Mr. Gaddis personally paid for the lunches for the
42 needy Forest schools. In 1952, there was not a busing system for
43 the children living within the city limits, so he purchasing a bus
44 and donated it to the school system; and

45 WHEREAS, Mr. Gaddis served on the Board of Directors for the
46 Baptist Children's Village for 30 years. He sponsored the
47 building and furnishing of a cottage for the Children's Village,
48 which housed 14 boys. He served as a Deacon at Forest Baptist
49 Church. He received the Silver Beaver award for the Boy Scouts,
50 one of the most coveted awards. In 1969, the Eagle Scout Class
51 was named in his honor. He was a Mason in Forest and a past
52 President of the Lions Club; and

53 WHEREAS, survivors include: his wife of 58 years, Mary
54 Francis Tweency Gaddis; sons, Michael C. Gaddis and David E.
55 Gaddis; daughter, Beverly Gaddis Woods; two sisters, Wilma Rose
56 Coil and Zula Crosby; 12 grandchildren, Memrie Gaddis, Michelle
57 Gaddis Wilson, Carter Gaddis, Lea Ann Gaddis Ellis, Tracy Gaddis,
58 Matthew Woods, Melissa Gaddis, Hilary Gaddis Craddock, Preston
59 Woods, Leighton Gaddis, Freddie Woods and Elizabeth Woods; four



60 great-grandchildren, Dean Wilson, Colby Gaddis, Katelyn Gaddis and
61 Maggie Ellis. He was preceded in death by Fred Gaddis, Jr.; and

62 WHEREAS, Fred Gaddis offered stability and long-term
63 leadership in Forest and Scott Counties, built a strong foundation
64 for economic activity that will stand for years to come, and was a
65 true public servant that will be missed:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
68 we do hereby commend the life and public service legacy of revered
69 Scott County businessman and former Forest Mayor Fred L. Gaddis,
70 Sr., and express the sympathy of the Legislature to his family on
71 his passing.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
73 the surviving family of Mayor Gaddis and be made available to the
74 Capitol Press Corps.

