

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Johnson (38th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 540

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING COACH  
2 HENRY "DOC" WOODS OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI, THE BLUFF CITY POST  
3 "PERSON OF THE DECADE."

4 WHEREAS, Coach Henry "Doc" Woods, long-time coach, teacher,  
5 and civic-charitable activist, has been named "Person of the  
6 Decade" by the Bluff City Post; and

7 WHEREAS, some 61 years ago, a legend was born in the  
8 neighborhood of West Stiers Lane. The name of that legend was  
9 Henry "Doc" Woods. He has graced the hallways and athletic fields  
10 of Sadie V. Thompson High School and Mississippi Valley State  
11 University to become the State of Mississippi's greatest track  
12 coach; and

13 WHEREAS, in 40 years of coaching, Woods has amassed an  
14 impressive if not awesome record. With a .820 winning percentage,  
15 his teams have earned 18 State Championships, 105 district wins  
16 and 643 total meet wins; and

17 WHEREAS, through four decades, Woods has sent a number of his  
18 athletes to college to become successful citizens in many  
19 communities across the United States; and

20 WHEREAS, school track coach for the Natchez Adams School  
21 District, Woods also served as a volunteer director, lead coach  
22 and lead recruiter for the Natchez Track Club Summer Program for  
23 the past 23 years; and

24 WHEREAS, during this period, he established the Track Club  
25 Parent Board as well as coordinated all the necessary USA Track  
26 and Field Southern Association materials for the Natchez Track



27 Club to participate in state, regional, national and international  
28 events; and

29 WHEREAS, Coach Woods serves as the First Vice President of  
30 the USA Track and Field Southern Association for Mississippi and  
31 Louisiana from 1991 to the present. Up to 30 of the local youth  
32 each summer from 10-18 years of age participate in the Natchez  
33 Track Club Sports Club thanks to the hard work and dedication of  
34 Coach Woods; and

35 WHEREAS, Woods has prepared these athletes to become elite  
36 performers in competitive track events. As a result of his hard  
37 work, many athletes that would have gone unnoticed during the  
38 regular school program have earned college and university  
39 scholarships through the Summer Track Program; and

40 WHEREAS, other community activities that "Doc" Woods has been  
41 actively involved in, includes being an assistant director of the  
42 local Special Olympics and being a member of the Metro War on  
43 Drugs; and

44 WHEREAS, in November of the year 2001, the City of Natchez  
45 and the Board of Aldermen at their regular meeting honored Coach  
46 Woods for his forty years of service to the community by  
47 presenting him with a \$500.00 check and keys to the city and a  
48 resolution and recommendation to the Natchez Adams County School  
49 Board that they name the school track field the Henry "Doc" Woods  
50 Track Field; and

51 WHEREAS, one thing that has not gone unnoticed is the fact  
52 that "Doc" Woods is one of the State's most eligible bachelors.  
53 He also spends a lot of time with his college age son, Henry, Jr.;  
54 and

55 WHEREAS, he is a member of the Forest Aide Baptist Church  
56 where he serves as Sunday School Superintendent and is President  
57 of the Forest Aide Club. He also served as Sports Editor of the  
58 Bluff City Post for the year 1996, writing an article for which he  
59 received an award; and



60           WHEREAS, he has worked many years in many different  
61 capacities but the one thing that he seems most comfortable doing  
62 outside of coaching is teaching the Bible. Coach Woods prides  
63 himself on being an astute Bible scholar and he is an avid Bible  
64 reader and when he teaches a class there is spell-binding silence  
65 in the room because he engages the audience into the words and  
66 history from whatever book he is teaching; and

67           WHEREAS, Coach Henry "Doc" Woods' long-term service in our  
68 community has made a great and lasting impact on our youth as they  
69 pursue rewarding and positive career goals; and

70           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this  
71 designation which brings honor to him, his community and to the  
72 State of Mississippi:

73           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
74 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
75 we do hereby commend and congratulate Coach Henry "Doc" Woods of  
76 Natchez, Mississippi, upon being named the Bluff City Post "Person  
77 of the Decade" and wish him continued success in his future civic,  
78 charitable and coaching endeavors.

79           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
80 presented to Coach Woods, and be made available to the Capitol  
81 Press Corps.

