

By: Senator(s) Furniss

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 599

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND MEMORIALIZING THE LIFE
2 AND LEGACY OF WILLIE "JOE" YUNG, A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN AND
3 ESTEEMED CITIZEN OF THE COMMUNITY OF RENA LARA, MISSISSIPPI, FOR
4 OVER 37 YEARS.

5 WHEREAS, Willie "Joe" Yung was born Wing Heap Yung in the
6 Village of Nan Fu Liao, County of Xin Hui, Province of Guang Dong,
7 China on September 23, 1895; and

8 WHEREAS, at age 14, Willie traveled to Canada with his father
9 and worked at various jobs for a number of years; and

10 WHEREAS, after six years in Canada, Willie returned to his
11 village in China and married his childhood sweetheart, Zhao Ru
12 Xing; and

13 WHEREAS, during the next several years, Willie and his wife
14 had three children as Willie traveled from China to and from
15 Canada to work and provide for his family; and

16 WHEREAS, Willie's two youngest children died at an early age
17 (a newborn son, and Yew Yee Yung at age 17); and

18 WHEREAS, about 1930, Willie left his family in China, went to
19 Canada, and then to the small community of Rena Lara, Mississippi,
20 where he had the opportunity to purchase and operate his own
21 community general grocery store; and

22 WHEREAS, Willie operated his grocery store in Rena Lara for
23 over 37 years, sending money on a regular basis to support his
24 family in China; and

25 WHEREAS, during his 37 years at Rena Lara, Willie became a
26 well-respected successful businessman, a strong, positive
27 supporter of the community, and a faithful and active member of
28 Rena Lara Baptist Church; and



29 WHEREAS, during his many years at Rena Lara, Willie was many
30 things to many people. He was a real friend and a good neighbor.
31 But to many he was much more than that. To some he was a banker--
32 cashing checks, lending money to pay farm workers in order to save
33 a trip to town, giving credit for supplies and even lending money
34 to make crops. To others he was a provider--giving credit for
35 groceries and household needs, sometimes paying utility bills for
36 neighbors before the "cut-off" man came. And quite often he could
37 be seen feeding people who happened in around noon and had not
38 eaten. And to all he was the Good Samaritan--always helping
39 anybody at any place anytime; and

40 WHEREAS, Willie was also a great lover of children--
41 contributing large sums to the Children's Bible School of Rena
42 Lara Baptist Church and providing refreshments for many special
43 occasions; and

44 WHEREAS, Willie greatly endeared himself to the citizens of
45 Rena Lara and the surrounding area and was affectionately
46 nicknamed "Joe"; and

47 WHEREAS, Willie, during his almost four decades at Rena Lara,
48 was not able to tell his many friends about his family in
49 Communist China for fear of endangering his safety and the safety
50 of his family in China, but he continued to send his family
51 members money on a regular basis, sometimes even having to smuggle
52 it to them; and

53 WHEREAS, in 1958, Willie's wife died in China. Willie's
54 remaining family consisted of his surviving son, Wah Sing Yung,
55 Wah Sing's wife, Meikam Ng Yung and their six children; and

56 WHEREAS, on July 18, 1967, Willie "Joe" Yung retired, said
57 good-bye to his many friends, and left Rena Lara for the last
58 time; and

59 WHEREAS, Willie went to Hong Kong to visit members of his
60 family who were able to come from China to visit; and



61 WHEREAS, Willie became ill and died in Hong Kong on April 16,
62 1981, at the age of 85. He was cremated in accordance with his
63 wishes and years later his ashes were buried in Forrest Lawn
64 Memorial Park in Glendale, California; and

65 WHEREAS, Willie's son and daughter-in-law, and their six
66 children now live in America and are American citizens and as many
67 as are able plan to attend the Rena Lara Homecoming on Saturday,
68 July 27, 2002; and

69 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize,
70 commend and honor the lives and accomplishments of citizens of
71 this state, and especially those who have given unselfish,
72 dedicated, and exemplary service to their neighbors and
73 communities:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
75 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
76 we do hereby commend and memorialize the life and legacy of Willie
77 "Joe" Yung, a successful businessman and esteemed citizen of the
78 community of Rena Lara, Mississippi, for over 37 years.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Senator Delma Furniss is hereby
80 designated to represent this body in presenting this resolution to
81 the family members of Willie "Joe" Yung on the occasion of a
82 special program at the Rena Lara Homecoming to be held at Rena
83 Lara, Mississippi on Saturday, July 27, 2002.

