

By: Senator(s) Simmons, Dawkins To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL
2 CAREER OF MELVIN CHRISTOPHER (MEL) TRIPLETT, A NATIVE OF
3 INDIANOLA, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE SENATE.

4 WHEREAS, Mel Triplett, the fullback for the Giants' 1956
5 National Football League champions, died Thursday, July 25, 2002,
6 in Toledo, Ohio. He was 71; and

7 WHEREAS, Melvin Christopher Triplett was born December 24,
8 1930, in Indianola, Mississippi, the second of 12 children. He
9 was raised in Girard, Ohio, where he won 11 high school letters in
10 football, track and field, basketball and gymnastics; and

11 WHEREAS, he received 26 scholarship offers to play football.
12 He chose the University of Toledo, won letters all four years at
13 Toledo before the Giants drafted him in the fifth round. After
14 his pro football career, he worked in a Toledo brewery and ran a
15 federal training program; and

16 WHEREAS, the 1956 National Football League Final was a
17 memorable game in which the Giants wore white sneakers on Yankee
18 Stadium's frozen turf while the Chicago Bears skidded around on
19 cleats; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1996, at a 40th Anniversary Celebration of that
21 championship, Sam Huff, the Giants' Hall of Fame middle
22 linebacker, recalled Triplett's 17-yard run in the game. "He ran
23 a trap in the middle," Huff told the New York Times, "and with his
24 head down he went straight over an official and into the end zone
25 for our first touchdown." The Giants went on to a 47-7 victory
26 and Triplett was voted the Giants' Offensive Player of the Game.



27 Jim Lee Howell, the Giants' coach, said, "Without Triplett's
28 blocking, a lot of our plays wouldn't have worked; and

29 WHEREAS, the 6-foot-1-inch, 215-pound Triplett was mainly a
30 blocking back for Frank Gifford, who appreciated his toughness in
31 the film room as well as on the field; and

32 WHEREAS, in eight professional seasons with the Giants
33 (1955-1960) and the Minnesota Vikings (1961-1962), Triplett rushed
34 for 2,857 yards and 14 touchdowns in 97 games. His career ended
35 with the Cleveland Browns in 1963; and

36 WHEREAS, he is survived by five daughters, Renee Green,
37 Teresa Triplett-Smith, Angel Masie, Gladys Jean Triplett and Gwen
38 Triplett; seven sons, William, Walter, Sylvester, Calvin,
39 Theodore, Aaron and Alton; eight sisters, Mary Brown, Lesten
40 McElroy, Syphronia Garrett, Amelia Murray, Lillie Crawford,
41 Maxine Cato, Jacquelyn Miller and Ruth Darlene Grayer; a brother,
42 Bill; and 50 grandchildren; and

43 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of a
44 famous professional athlete who has brought honor to his sport and
45 to his home state:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
47 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life and professional
48 football career of Melvin Christopher (Mel) Triplett, a native of
49 Indianola, Mississippi, who was a key player in the most famous of
50 all professional football games, and extend to his family the
51 sympathy of the Senate.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
53 the surviving family of Mel Triplett and be made available to the
54 Capitol Press Corps.

