

By: Senator(s) Little, Burton, Frazier, Dearing, Browning, Nunnelee, Dawkins, Gordon, Posey, Thames, Walden, Furniss, Carmichael, Scoper, Farris, Gollott, Lee, Bryan, Williamson, Mettetal, Dickerson, Jackson, Kirby, Hyde-Smith, Chamberlin, Moffatt, Hamilton, Harvey, Tollison, Hewes, Minor, Robertson, Stogner, White, Chaney, King, Smith, Ross, Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 510

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING TIMOTHY ALAN (TIM) FORD
2 FOR HIS OUTSTANDING LEGISLATIVE RECORD AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO
3 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Timothy Alan (Tim) Ford is completing 24 years of
5 outstanding, dedicated service as a member of the Mississippi
6 House of Representatives from District 18 (Lee, Prentiss and
7 Pontotoc Counties), and is completing his fourth 4-year term as
8 Speaker of the House; and

9 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford is the second longest serving Speaker
10 in Mississippi history (the only man who served longer as Speaker
11 of the House was the late Walter Sillers), and is viewed by
12 colleagues in State Houses around America with a measure of
13 respect and envy for his ability to hold the House together and
14 resist the pressures of partisanship; and

15 WHEREAS, Tim Ford grew up in the area around Tupelo,
16 Mississippi, which has for decades been a most progressive part of
17 the state regarding economic development, agriculture and
18 education, and he ably represented the citizens of Lee, Prentiss
19 and Pontotoc Counties by taking a leading role in virtually every
20 meaningful economic development, agriculture and progressive
21 education program in Mississippi during his tenure; and

22 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford's tenure, 1988-present, include the
23 following legislative accomplishments for the people of
24 Mississippi:

25 --1988: Increased teachers' across-the-board pay by an
26 average of \$2,114.00 annually, plus experience increments;



27 --1990: Authorized riverboat gaming in counties along the
28 Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast, if approved in local
29 referendums;

30 --1992: Created financial stability and government
31 accountability with the "98 percent" rule limiting annual General
32 Fund spending and establishing a "rainy day" fund;

33 --1992: Education was reaffirmed as a top legislative
34 priority with establishment of the Education Enhancement Fund,
35 hailed as the most important gain for education since the 1982
36 Education Reform Act;

37 --1993: Established a new intermediate appeals court to
38 assist the Mississippi Supreme Court, and an Administrative Office
39 of Courts to improve the state's judicial system;

40 --1994-1995: Enacted major roads-and-bridges bill to assist
41 cities and counties in reconstruction of deficient bridges and add
42 a fourth phase of highway construction to the 1987 Four-Lane
43 Program;

44 --1995: Salary increases averaging \$1,158.00 per year
45 approved for classroom teachers;

46 --1997: Enacted sweeping Welfare Reform Act to implement
47 programs to help AFDC(TANF) recipients through education, job
48 training and work incentives, authorizing income tax credits to
49 employers who hire welfare recipients;

50 --1998: Passed tax break for married couples;

51 --1999: Created Health-Care Trust Fund to invest tobacco
52 litigation monies for long-term funding of major health programs;

53 --2000: Enacted the Mississippi Teacher Opportunity Program
54 (TOP), awarding teachers an 8% pay raise, the largest increase in
55 state history, and a 10% pay raise over a three-year period;

56 --2000: Enacted compulsory motor vehicle liability insurance
57 law;



58 --2000: Enacted National Voter Registration Act or "Motor
59 Voter" allowing persons to register to vote when they get a
60 driver's license;

61 --2000: Appropriated funds toward settling the Ayers
62 desegregation case;

63 --2000: Approved \$300 Million incentive package to attract
64 the Nissan Corporation to Mississippi--the state's first
65 automaker;

66 --2002: Continued funding for plan to bring the Mississippi
67 school teacher's salary to Southeastern average;

68 --2002: Resolved budget problems in the Medicaid program;

69 --2002: Strengthened DUI laws and highway safety by lowering
70 blood alcohol content threshold;

71 --2002: Enacted medical malpractice reforms and general
72 civil justice reforms including damage caps and venue revision;
73 and

74 WHEREAS, he is recognized nationally, having served as
75 Chairman of the Southern Legislative Conference of the Council of
76 State Governments, President of the National Speakers Conference
77 (1997), and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the State
78 Legislative Leaders Foundation (2002), is a former Vice Chairman
79 of the Southern Growth Policies Board, and is active in numerous
80 national and regional legislative organizations; and

81 WHEREAS, in 2001, Speaker Ford was the recipient of the
82 prestigious "William M. Bulger Excellence in State Legislative
83 Leadership Award," presented annually to a leader who makes a
84 significant contribution to the performance, strengthening and
85 operation of their legislative institutions, with the nomination
86 for the award made by lawmakers and state government observers
87 across the nation; and

88 WHEREAS, Tim Ford was born on October 22, 1951, in Winter
89 Haven, Florida; is a graduate of the University of Mississippi and
90 Ole Miss Law School; and as Speaker, he serves on the Joint



91 Legislative Budget Committee and the Joint Committee on the
92 Compilation of the Code, alternating on a yearly basis as chairman
93 of both joint panels; and

94 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford has been praised for leading the
95 Mississippi House with vision, strength and leadership,
96 particularly for his lead in campaigning against a statewide
97 term-limits referendum, where the measure's two defeats were
98 widely seen as signaling the issue's waning national appeal; and

99 WHEREAS, as presiding officer of the House of
100 Representatives, Tim Ford has provided firm, effective and
101 constructive leadership coupled with a keen understanding of the
102 issues facing Mississippi and a passion about the Legislature as
103 an institution to where the Legislature is stronger when he leaves
104 than it was when he arrived; and

105 WHEREAS, Speaker Ford has indicated that he will retire at
106 the expiration of his present term, in order to spend time with
107 his sons, Ken and Sam, and to devote more time to the practice of
108 law; and

109 WHEREAS, the members of this Legislature wish to express
110 sincere appreciation to Mr. Speaker for his many outstanding
111 accomplishments and record of dedicated public service:

112 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
113 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
114 we do hereby commend our friend, colleague and leader, Tim Ford,
115 for all that he has meant to the Mississippi Legislature and his
116 unmatched contributions to the people of the State of Mississippi.

117 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
118 Speaker Tim Ford and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

