

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Dearing, Johnson
(38th), Chamberlin, Williamson, Tollison,
Gordon, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 518

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF WELL-KNOWN
2 GREENVILLE MUSICIAN, WRITER AND BUSINESSMAN KENNETH HAXTON, AND
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of
5 Kenneth Haxton who died on September 18, 2002, at age 82; and

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Haxton, a musician, writer and civic treasure,
7 was born in Greenville, Mississippi, on October 20, 1919. He
8 attended Greenville High School, where he was editor of the school
9 paper, *The Pica*, and the school literary magazine, *Thresholds*.

10 Despite his gift with words, music may have been his most
11 important artistic endeavor; and

12 WHEREAS, a self-taught musician, he favored classical
13 compositions and composed some 175 musical selections, ranging
14 from organ solos to complete symphonic works. Many of his
15 compositions are based upon literary works by notable Mississippi
16 authors. In his circle of friends were such luminaries as
17 Faulkner, Shelby Foote and Hodding Carter; and

18 WHEREAS, his most well-known musical composition is "The
19 Sound and the Fury," based upon William Faulkner's work of the
20 same title. The five-movement piece for contralto solo was
21 completed in 1966 and was performed by the Greenville Symphony
22 Orchestra in May 1982. Haxton's pieces have been performed in
23 Greenville, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee; and throughout the
24 State of Mississippi; and

25 WHEREAS, in addition to composing music, Haxton was also a
26 supporter of the arts. While a student at Ole Miss, he and Hugh
27 Alexander formed a group which would later become the Greenville



28 Symphony Orchestra. He graduated from Ole Miss in 1944, majoring
29 in English; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Haxton was married to Josephine Ayres Haxton,
31 better known as the critically acclaimed Mississippi author, Ellen
32 Douglas, for 35 years. They had three sons, including former
33 State Representative, Ayres Haxton; Brooks Haxton, a noted poet
34 and Richard Haxton, a musician and teacher; and

35 WHEREAS, while a gifted artist, Mr. Haxton was also a
36 businessman, and was involved in the founding of the Levee Press,
37 a small company which published works by such authors as Faulkner
38 and Shelby Foote. The press also published one of Haxton's
39 novels, *The Undiscovered Country*. Among his many talents was one
40 perhaps unheralded: he wrote crossword puzzles, some which have
41 been published in *The New York Times*; and

42 WHEREAS, at one time Haxton was involved in the Rotary Club
43 of Greenville, and served as president of the organization from
44 1941-1942. He also served as a communications officer in the
45 United State's Navy during World War II, receiving the rank of
46 Lieutenant before discharge; and

47 WHEREAS, Kenneth Haxton will surely be missed, but his legacy
48 lives on in the love the people of the Mississippi Delta have for
49 the region's rich literary and musical heritage:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
52 we do hereby commend the life of well-known Greenville musician,
53 writer, businessman and civic treasure, Kenneth Haxton, and
54 express to his family the sympathy of the Legislature on his
55 passing.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
57 the surviving family of Kenneth Haxton and be made available to
58 the Capitol Press Corps.

