

By: Senator(s) Michel, Little, Chaney, King, Dearing, Gollott, Hewes, Gordon, Smith, Farris To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 553

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JAMES  
2 RAY CARPENTER, FIRST MISSISSIPPIAN TO BE SELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF  
3 THE PGA, UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF  
4 FAME CLASS OF 2003.

5 WHEREAS, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports  
6 Hall of Fame has unveiled its Class of 2003, which features James  
7 Ray Carpenter, talented golfer who was the first Mississippian to  
8 be selected as President of the PGA; and

9 WHEREAS, a native of Runnelstown, Mississippi, and raised in  
10 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where he played football, basketball and  
11 tennis; James played basketball and baseball for two years at  
12 Mississippi State and then transferred to Southern Mississippi,  
13 where he was a star scorer for the hoops squad and an ace pitcher  
14 on the diamond; and

15 WHEREAS, he was coached by five Mississippi Sports Hall of  
16 Fame members at MSU and USM and played military service basketball  
17 while serving in the Air Force during the Korean War; and

18 WHEREAS, he was introduced to the sport of golf at the age of  
19 33 while in private business selling oil field chemicals; and

20 WHEREAS, he is a self-taught player who became a PGA member  
21 in 1969, a Southern Miss golf coach and pro from 1964-1980, served  
22 as President of the Mississippi PGA, was appointed in 1979 to the  
23 PGA Rules Committee, was elected as PGA Treasurer and Vice  
24 President before being selected as National PGA President for the  
25 1987-1988 term; and

26 WHEREAS, he served as Chairman of the PGA Championship and  
27 the 1985 Ryder Cup, was named Golf Person of the Year in 1988 by  
28 the *Southern Golf Journal*; and



29           WHEREAS, he has officiated at some of golf's top worldwide  
30 events including the PGA Championship, the U.S. Open, the Masters,  
31 the Ryder Cup and the Tournament Players Championship; and

32           WHEREAS, he was inducted into the Southern Mississippi  
33 Athletic Hall of Fame in 1977 and selected as a charter member of  
34 the Gulf States PGA Hall of Fame in 1999; and

35           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this  
36 outstanding athlete who has brought honor to his university and to  
37 the State of Mississippi:

38           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
39 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
40 we do hereby commend and congratulate James Ray Carpenter,  
41 talented golfer who was the first Mississippian to be selected as  
42 President of the PGA, upon his induction into the Mississippi  
43 Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2003, and wish him and his family  
44 continued success in all their future endeavors.

45           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
46 Mr. Carpenter at induction ceremonies to be held on April 4, 2003,  
47 in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and be made available to the Capitol  
48 Press Corps.

