

By: Senator(s) Little, Browning, Burton,
Carmichael, Chamberlin, Chaney, Dawkins,
Dearing, Farris, Frazier, Furniss, Gollott,
Hamilton, Harden, Harvey, Horhn, Huggins,
Hyde-Smith, Jackson, Jordan, Kirby, Mettetal,
Michel, Minor, Nunnelee, Posey, Simmons,
Smith, Stogner, Tollison, Walden, White,
Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 583

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING STATE TREASURER MARSHALL
2 BENNETT FOR HIS OUTSTANDING RECORD AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE
3 PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Marshall G. Bennett, first elected as Mississippi's
5 51st State Treasurer in 1987, is completing his fourth term in
6 office, and is viewed by colleagues around America with a measure
7 of respect for his ability; and

8 WHEREAS, Bennett has earned more than \$1 Billion of interest
9 for the State of Mississippi, investing the state's funds through
10 professional methods. He has saved over \$40 Million in debt
11 payment by refinancing state bonds for lower interest rates. He
12 has helped Mississippi families by creating the MPACT and MACS
13 College Savings Programs which will pay over \$100 Million in
14 college tuition payments for Mississippi students. Bennett has
15 worked to make the state's financial management safe and secure.
16 Mississippi's credit rating has been upgraded to AA, the first
17 upgrade since 1974. He has recently set up a statewide Collateral
18 Pool to protect all public funds invested and deposited in banks
19 under a more efficient centralized system; and

20 WHEREAS, as Trustee for Mississippi's Public Employees'
21 Retirement System, he has helped accumulate \$17 Billion of
22 retirement benefits for 154,000 families. Bennett created the
23 Mississippi Women's Money Conference to help inform women and
24 families of ways to save, invest, reduce debt and become
25 financially secure. As Chairman of the Health Care Trust Fund,
26 Bennett invested the \$700 Million tobacco settlement fund, which
27 has improved health care for all citizens. As a Director of the



28 Mississippi Business Finance Corporation, the Mississippi
29 Development Bank, Bennett helped provide funding for low interest
30 business loans for business jobs, create and improve clean water
31 and sewer facilities for Mississippi cities and towns. Bennett
32 has located over \$25 Million in unclaimed property and lost bank
33 accounts and returned over \$10 Million to Mississippi's owners or
34 their heirs; and

35 WHEREAS, as an active, financial leader of our state,
36 Marshall Bennett has been elected President of the National
37 Treasurers Association, President of the National State Auditors,
38 Comptrollers & Treasurers Association and Chairman of the National
39 College Savings Association. In 1998, Bennett received the
40 Nation's Most Outstanding State Treasurers Award; and

41 WHEREAS, Marshall Bennett was born in Lexington, Mississippi,
42 the son of a small town merchant. He obtained his BA and Juris
43 Doctor degrees from the University of Mississippi and practiced
44 law in Jackson, served as Assistant District Attorney, Director of
45 the State Consumer Protection Division and Assistant Attorney
46 General, Legislative Assistant to Governor William Winter and
47 Chairman of the Workers' Compensation Commission. He is the
48 father of three children, and resides in Jackson. Bennett has
49 been active as the President of the Mississippi Prevent Blindness
50 Association, Administrative Board of Christ United Methodist
51 Church and the Advisory Board of the Mississippi Commission on
52 International Cultural Exchange, which has brought to Mississippi
53 the acclaimed Art exhibits of the Palaces of St. Petersburg, the
54 Splendors of Versailles and the Majesty of Spain, seen by over 1.4
55 million visitors who came to Mississippi; he is a Lead Sponsor for
56 Habitat for Humanity, a member of the American Legion, Omicron
57 Delta Kappa National Leadership, Board of Directors of the State
58 YMCA and is State Law Day Chairman for the Mississippi Bar
59 Association; he has received the Jesse Unruh National Award and
60 the Most Outstanding Treasurers Award; he is a member of Sigma Chi



61 Fraternity, and is a member of the Mississippi and American Bar
62 Associations; he was a Captain, U.S. Army Reserve, a Distinguished
63 Military Graduate ROTC and served two years' active duty in the
64 Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG) Army Intelligence Corps; and

65 WHEREAS, Marshall Bennett has provided firm, effective and
66 constructive leadership, coupled with a keen understanding of the
67 issues facing Mississippi, and he has indicated that he will
68 retire at the expiration of his present term in order to spend
69 time with his family and to resume the practice of law; and

70 WHEREAS, the members of this Legislature wish to express
71 sincere appreciation to Marshall Bennett for his many outstanding
72 accomplishments and record of dedicated public service:

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
74 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
75 we do hereby commend State Treasurer Marshall Bennett for his
76 outstanding record of financial stewardship and his unmatched
77 contributions to the people of the State of Mississippi, and
78 extend to him the best wishes of the Legislature in his future
79 endeavors.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
81 Marshall Bennett and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

