

By: Senator(s) Furniss

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 595

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 82-YEAR HISTORY OF
2 SUNFLOWER CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL AND COMMENDING ITS FORMER
3 TEACHERS AND STUDENTS ON RESTORING AND PRESERVING THE SCHOOL, ITS
4 BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

5 WHEREAS, during the early 1920's, many rural one-room schools
6 in the Mississippi Delta and across the state were consolidated
7 into larger district schools; and

8 WHEREAS, in 1922, three one-room schools in south Coahoma
9 County were consolidated to create Sunflower Consolidated High
10 School; and

11 WHEREAS, Sunflower Consolidated High School included Grades
12 1-12 and consisted of a seven-room-and-auditorium brick
13 schoolhouse, a new 15-room wood-frame house for teachers, a
14 lunchroom converted from an existing one-room schoolhouse, and a
15 fish pond, all located on approximately ten acres of land; and

16 WHEREAS, Sunflower Consolidated High School, as a school,
17 began with consolidation (one-room schools) in 1922, operated 41
18 years, and as a school, ended with consolidation (one county-wide
19 high school) in 1962; and

20 WHEREAS, Sunflower Consolidated High School was unique
21 (believed to be one of only two such schools in the state) in that
22 its school year was based and scheduled around its students being
23 able to work on their family farms. One school year would end in
24 early May to allow students to chop cotton on their family farms.
25 After cotton chopping was completed, the new school year would
26 begin in early July (a slow time for farm work) and continue for
27 about six weeks (until middle to late August) when school was then
28 dismissed for about six weeks to allow the students to pick cotton



29 on their family farms. School would then resume in early October
30 and the school year would then end in early May, and the cycle
31 would begin anew; and

32 WHEREAS, Sunflower Consolidated High School, in its 41 years
33 of operation as a school, was blessed with many qualified,
34 dedicated, caring and loving principals and teachers who provided
35 their many students with a good, well-rounded education to guide
36 them through life; and

37 WHEREAS, when Sunflower Consolidated High School began in
38 1922, a Mr. Abernathy was in charge of the school for a time.
39 Following Mr. Abernathy, six educators (listed with approximate
40 dates) served as principals of the school: S.B. Thornton, Sr.,
41 1924-1937; T.L. Lewis, 1937-1938; E.E. Sanders, 1938-1940; H.P.
42 Oliver, 1940-1946; A.Y. Owens, 1946-1959; Cecil Vaughn, 1959-1962;
43 and

44 WHEREAS, during the 41 years Sunflower Consolidated High
45 School operated as a school, two wings were added to the school in
46 1929 and a new gymnasium-cafeteria-classroom facility was built in
47 1946 (this facility was later demolished in the 1970's); and

48 WHEREAS, in 1990, former students and teachers organized the
49 Sunflower Consolidated School Preservation Commission, leased the
50 school property, and began repairing, restoring and preserving the
51 school, its buildings and grounds; and

52 WHEREAS, in 2000, the Sunflower Consolidated School
53 Preservation Commission was successful in securing passage of
54 legislation authorizing special vehicle license plates to raise
55 funds for restoring the school property; and

56 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize
57 historic educational institutions in this state and to support and
58 commend citizens of this state for their accomplishments and
59 achievements in restoring and preserving historic buildings and
60 grounds:



61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
62 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
63 we do hereby recognize the 82-year history of Sunflower
64 Consolidated High School and congratulate and commend its former
65 teachers and students on their work in restoring and preserving
66 the school, its buildings and grounds.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Senator Delma Furniss is hereby
68 designated to represent this body in presenting this resolution to
69 former teachers and students of Sunflower Consolidated High School
70 at its annual reunion to be held at the school on Sunday, May 25,
71 2003.

