

By: Senator(s) Hamilton, Browning, Frazier,
Smith

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 597

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF DR. JORJA
2 POUND TURNIPSEED OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF
3 VSA ARTS OF MISSISSIPPI, UPON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, longtime Executive Director of VSA Arts of
5 Mississippi, Inc. (formerly Very Special Arts of Mississippi) and
6 Professor Emerita at Mississippi State University, Dr. Jorja Pound
7 Turnipseed of Starkville, Mississippi, has announced her
8 retirement after many years of dedicated service to people with
9 disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, "VSA" stands for "Vision, Strength and Artistic
11 Expression"; the national organization was founded in 1974 as an
12 affiliate of The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,
13 and is an international organization that creates learning
14 opportunities through the arts for people with disabilities. The
15 organization serves 4.3 million Americans by offering arts-based
16 programs in creative writing, dance, drama, music and the visual
17 arts implemented primarily through a vast network in 39 states,
18 which includes VSA Arts of Mississippi; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Turnipseed's professional activities and
20 dedicated service are a matter of record: for many years she
21 taught the only teacher-training component dealing with
22 music-based arts education for special learners in the state;
23 member of the first Advisory Board for Very Special Arts,
24 Washington, D.C. (1985-1988); Chairman of the Advisory Board for
25 the Governor's Office of Handicapped Services (1981-1984);
26 teacher-training programs listed as "Exemplary Training Program
27 Activities/Mississippi State University" in the *Arts Resource and*



28 *Training Guide*, published by the National Committee, Arts for the
29 Handicapped (1981); Project Director of several
30 research/development projects involving music-based arts education
31 programs and children in Grades K-4; inducted into the Educational
32 Hall of Fame, Starkville Area Chamber of Commerce, 1992; selected
33 as "Outstanding Mississippi Woman 1988-1989", Mississippi State
34 University (1989); honored with the "Outstanding Community Service
35 Award", Starkville Area Chamber of Commerce (1986); recipient of
36 the "Outstanding Professional Woman in Service Award", in 1981,
37 and the first "Outstanding Faculty Woman Award" by Mississippi
38 State University (1972); recipient of a Special Award for
39 "Dedication and Leadership in Bringing Arts to the Lives of
40 Disabled People", the first such award given, presented by the
41 National Committee, Arts for the Handicapped (1985) presented
42 sessions at professional meetings and conferences, including, but
43 not limited to, Music Educators National Conference, Music
44 Education for the Handicapped International Symposium, Council for
45 Exceptional Children International Conference, Mid-South
46 Educational Research Conference, Southern Arts Federation Arts
47 Accessibility Conference, National School Board Association
48 Presidents' Conference, and International President, Pilot Club
49 International, a worldwide classified service organization for
50 executives and professionals (1986-1987); and

51 WHEREAS, from the beginning of a child's education to the
52 time when he or she becomes an adult and pursues a career,
53 research shows that the arts enhance both personal and academic
54 success. For people with disabilities, the arts represent a world
55 of resources and opportunities for creative expression and
56 success, enabling these individuals to contribute to our
57 workplaces and communities; and

58 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
59 contributions of this Mississippi citizen whose dedicated research
60 and service has broken new ground for people with disabilities



61 through the arts, and brought honor to her university and
62 community and to the State of Mississippi:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
64 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
65 we do hereby commend the career of Dr. Jorja Pound Turnipseed,
66 Executive Director of VSA Arts of Mississippi (formerly Very
67 Special Arts of Mississippi) upon the occasion of her retirement,
68 and extend the thanks of the Legislature for her dedicated service
69 to people with disabilities through the arts, and the best wishes
70 to her and her family for success in their future endeavors.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
72 Dr. Turnipseed and be made available to the President of
73 Mississippi State University and the Capitol Press Corps.

