

By: Senator(s) Blackmon, Simmons, Jordan,
Jackson, Turner, Walls, Johnson (38th),
Harden, Frazier, Browning, Burton,
Chamberlin, Chaney, Dearing, Farris, Furniss,
Gordon, Hamilton, Harvey, Horhn, Hyde-Smith,
Johnson (19th), King, Kirby, Little, Minor,
Nunnelee, Ross, Scoper, Thames, Tollison,
White, Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 615

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING ROBERT GEORGE CLARK FOR
2 HIS OUTSTANDING LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DEDICATED SERVICE
3 TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, House Speaker Pro Tempore Robert George Clark, the
5 first African-American elected to the Mississippi Legislature
6 since Reconstruction, is completing 35 years of outstanding,
7 dedicated service as a member of the Mississippi House of
8 Representatives from District 47 (Attala, Holmes and Yazoo
9 Counties); and

10 WHEREAS, he is completing a third 4-year term as Speaker Pro
11 Tempore of the House of Representatives, of which he was elected
12 to the second top leadership post in 1992. As Speaker Pro
13 Tempore, he presides in the absence of the Speaker and serves as
14 ex officio Chairman of the House Management Committee and ex
15 officio member of the House Rules Committee; and

16 WHEREAS, Robert George Clark, a Democrat from Ebenezer,
17 Mississippi, was elected in 1967 during a time of racial unrest in
18 the South, arriving at the State House of Representatives two
19 years after passage of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. His
20 35-year tenure in the Mississippi House of Representatives
21 symbolized the fight for change and a better society for all
22 Mississippians; and

23 WHEREAS, over the years since his election to the House of
24 Representatives, Robert George Clark has gained stature in the
25 Mississippi Legislature, rising from a freshman lawmaker to House
26 Education Committee Chairman, handling and authoring the historic
27 Education Reform Act of 1982; and



28 WHEREAS, Robert George Clark's leadership with the members of
29 the Mississippi Legislature in the passage of education reform
30 legislation was outstanding, especially regarding the sales tax
31 increase issue, where he exhibited a "great deal of determination
32 in a very subtle, inoffensive manner" according to longtime friend
33 and colleague Representative Jim Simpson; and

34 WHEREAS, he was born on October 3, 1928, in Ebenezer,
35 Mississippi; educated at Durant Training School, Jackson State
36 University, Mississippi Valley State University, Florida A&M
37 University and Michigan State University; he was a teacher, coach,
38 businessman and rancher; he is a faithful member of the Baptist
39 Church and the Elks; he is a member of the Mississippi Action for
40 Community Education, the Holmes County Union for Progress and the
41 Holmes County 21st Century Commission; he is married to the former
42 Jo Ann Ross, and they have three children: Bryant Wandrick, La
43 Leche Seay and Robert George III; and

44 WHEREAS, he is the subject of a new book, *Robert G. Clark's*
45 *Journey to the House: A Black Politician's Story*, by Will D.
46 Campbell which fuses Clark's family history with his political
47 career, and the continued influence of his work on contemporary
48 Mississippi politics and culture; and

49 WHEREAS, Robert George Clark's journey to the House of
50 Representatives unites one of Mississippi's foremost citizens of
51 the Twentieth Century and one of the state's most notable literary
52 voices; and

53 WHEREAS, Speaker Robert George Clark has been praised for his
54 vision and ability to sit down and work things out, and has
55 provided constructive leadership, coupled with a keen
56 understanding of the issues facing Mississippi; and

57 WHEREAS, the members of the Mississippi Legislature express
58 their sincere appreciation to The Honorable Robert George Clark,
59 Speaker Pro Tempore, for his outstanding accomplishments and



60 dedicated public service to the citizens of Mississippi upon the
61 occasion of his retirement at the expiration of his term:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
64 we do hereby commend our friend, colleague and leader, The
65 Honorable Robert George Clark, Speaker Pro Tempore, for his
66 unmatched contributions to the Mississippi Legislature and the
67 citizens of the State of Mississippi.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
69 Speaker Pro Tempore Robert George Clark and be made available to
70 the Capitol Press Corps.

