

By: Senator(s) Michel, White, King, Chaney

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 17

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DEDICATED MILITARY AND PUBLIC
2 SERVICE CAREER OF COLONEL RICHARD G. WILKINSON, RET'D., OF
3 JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, the Community of Jackson and the State of
5 Mississippi is indeed fortunate to have received the public
6 service of Richard Gaddis Wilkinson, Colonel, United States Air
7 Force, Retired, and Sigma Alpha Epsilon Distinguished Brother; and

8 WHEREAS, following his retirement from active duty with the
9 United States Air Force in 1970 at the rank of Colonel and as
10 Chief of Staff, 15th AF, March AFB, California, Colonel Wilkinson
11 returned to Jackson, Mississippi, where he organized the Central
12 Mississippi Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and has
13 served in a leadership role in that organization ever since
14 serving as President of the Central Mississippi Alumni Association
15 of Sigma Alpha Epsilon now in excess of 32 years; and

16 WHEREAS, he is an initiate of the Mississippi Gamma Chapter
17 of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at the University of Mississippi, Class of
18 1940. He served the Chapter as Pledge Trainer and Eminent Archon
19 (President). He is an SAE Leadership School graduate; and

20 WHEREAS, he received the SAE Province Theta Merit Key Award
21 (highest Province Award) in recognition of meritorious service to
22 the Fraternity from his Province consisting of all SAE Chapters
23 and Alumni Associations in Mississippi, Louisiana and West
24 Tennessee, which he served as Province Alumni Secretary and
25 Honorary Province Archon; and

26 WHEREAS, he served for many years as President of the
27 Mississippi Gamma House Corporation of the Ole Miss SAE Chapter



28 and raised 90% of the funds for construction of the existing SAE
29 Chapter House on the Ole Miss campus; and

30 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the organization and
31 chartering of the SAE Chapter at Millsaps College in Jackson,
32 Mississippi, Mississippi Delta Chapter, and has served since the
33 chartering of the Chapter as the House Corporation President for
34 the SAE Chapter at Millsaps College. He raised 95% of the
35 necessary funds for construction of the existing SAE Chapter House
36 on the Millsaps College campus, which is dedicated by the Chapter
37 to Colonel Wilkinson in his honor; and

38 WHEREAS, in 1989 he was presented with the SAE Fraternity
39 Distinguished Service Award at the Fraternity's Cincinnati, Ohio,
40 convention for his many and consistent years of service at the
41 Chapter level, in the Greater Jackson, Mississippi, area in
42 Province Theta and SAE nationally; and

43 WHEREAS, in 1993 he was further honored by the National
44 Fraternity upon his election as Honorary Eminent Supreme Archon
45 (Honorary National President of SAE) at the New Orleans
46 convention. He served as Honorary SAE of Sigma Alpha Epsilon from
47 1993 to 1995; and

48 WHEREAS, Colonel Wilkinson is a major donor to the Sigma
49 Alpha Epsilon Foundation, supporting fraternity undergraduate
50 academic scholarships and leadership programming, having obtained
51 the giving levels of Century Member, Mosley Member, Levere Member,
52 Phoenix Society Member, Bunting Society Member, Nippert Society
53 Member and Devotie Society Member for his many years of financial
54 support for SAE Foundation academic and educational scholarship
55 and programming for undergraduate members; and

56 WHEREAS, Colonel Wilkinson is SAE Keeper of the Tower Number
57 1 for the Endowment Fund which supports the maintenance of The
58 Levere Memorial Temple of Sigma Alpha Epsilon in Evanston,
59 Illinois, the Fraternity National Headquarters, which includes one



60 of the largest collections of Louis Tiffany stained glass windows,
61 including the Peace Window in the Chapel of the building; and

62 WHEREAS, he has attended numerous SAE national conventions
63 where he has actively participated in working to secure the future
64 of the Fraternity with positive Chapter programming and personal
65 growth and development for undergraduate members and the increased
66 involvement of Alumni in fraternity programming and operations;
67 and

68 WHEREAS, in 2000 he was honored by the Central Mississippi
69 (Greater Jackson area) Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon
70 with funds raised in his honor to create the Colonel Richard G.
71 Wilkinson Leadership School Endowment Fund of the Sigma Alpha
72 Epsilon Foundation which funds in perpetuity SAE Leadership School
73 scholarships for undergraduate delegates from the four Mississippi
74 SAE Chapters at Ole Miss, Mississippi State, University of
75 Southern and Millsaps College; and

76 WHEREAS, he is the donor of the Richard G. Wilkinson Carillon
77 Fund of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Foundation for perpetual
78 maintenance of the operation of the SAE Bell Tower chimes in the
79 Bell Tower of The Levere Memorial Temple of Sigma Alpha Epsilon in
80 Evanston, Illinois. One of the tunes played daily by the SAE Bell
81 Tower chimes at the Fraternity Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois,
82 in his honor is the Ole Miss fight song; and

83 WHEREAS, through his service as President of the Central
84 Mississippi Alumni Association of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (Greater
85 Jackson area) he has single-handedly seen to it that every 50-year
86 member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon from a Mississippi SAE Chapter and
87 every 50-year member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon who resides in
88 Mississippi who graduated from any other SAE Chapter, has received
89 his 50-Year Member Certificate as a Golden Son Of Minerva of SAE.
90 To date, in excess of 645 50-Year Member Certificates have been
91 presented to brothers from 58 different SAE Chapters; and



92 WHEREAS, he is a recipient of the Order of the Lion Award
93 from Mississippi Sigma Chapter of SAE at University of Southern
94 Mississippi for his Alumni service benefiting that Chapter; and

95 WHEREAS, his commitment to excellence and to supporting and
96 enhancing the undergraduate college experience for his
97 undergraduate fraternity brothers is exemplary. His service to
98 his alumni brothers in the Fraternity through the many SAE
99 Founders Day events sponsored by the Central Mississippi Alumni
100 Association in March of each year, through his fund-raising
101 efforts for SAE Chapter Houses at Ole Miss and Millsaps, through
102 his fund-raising and his generosity and his contributions to the
103 SAE Foundation for academic scholarships and SAE Leadership School
104 scholarships and for maintenance of The Levere Memorial Temple is
105 unmatched by any other member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon from the
106 State of Mississippi. Colonel Richard Gaddis Wilkinson is a great
107 American, a great Mississippian, a great Jacksonian and a great
108 SAE:

109 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
110 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the dedicated military and
111 public service career of Colonel Richard G. Wilkinson, Ret'd., of
112 Jackson, Mississippi, and extend to Colonel Wilkinson and his
113 family the thanks of the Mississippi Senate for his many
114 contributions to our community, our state and our nation.

115 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
116 Colonel Wilkinson and his family and be made available to the
117 Capitol Press Corps.

