

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.

