

By: Senator(s) Little

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 104

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LONGTIME CAPITOL CORRESPONDENT
2 AND EDITORIAL CAREER OF JACK M. ELLIOTT, JR., ON THE OCCASION OF
3 HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 25 YEARS COVERING THE MISSISSIPPI
4 LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Associated Press Reporter Jack M. Elliott, Jr., has
6 covered the Mississippi Legislature as Capitol Correspondent for
7 25 years; and

8 WHEREAS, Jack began reporting events at the Mississippi
9 Legislature in 1974, working for various regional newspapers,
10 including *The Alabama Journal*, *The Meridian Star* and *The*
11 *Clarion-Ledger*, and was Correspondent for United Press
12 International serving as Jackson Bureau Manager; he then became
13 Press Aide to U.S. Congressman David Bowen; he started with *The*
14 *Associated Press* in Oklahoma City in 1984, transferred back to the
15 AP staff in Jackson, Mississippi, in July 1988 and again covered
16 the Legislature beginning in 1989; and

17 WHEREAS, Jack has covered the administrations of Governors
18 Bill Waller, Cliff Finch, William Winter, Bill Allain, Ray Mabus,
19 Kirk Fordice and Ronnie Musgrove; and

20 WHEREAS, Jack has covered the administrations of Lieutenant
21 Governors William Winter, Evelyn Gandy, Brad Dye, Eddie Briggs,
22 Ronnie Musgrove and Amy Tuck; and

23 WHEREAS, Jack has covered the administrations of House
24 Speakers John Junkin, Buddie Newman and Tim Ford; and

25 WHEREAS, one of Jack's favorite political stories took place
26 during the Waller administration, when the Governor was having a
27 photo made on the Capitol steps with a group of school children;
28 when the children became rowdy, Governor Waller told them they



29 were all going to end up in Parchman. The Governor then turned to
30 see Jack and other Capitol reporters watching, and Governor Waller
31 apologized for what he had said; and

32 WHEREAS, another great moment in print journalism was when
33 Jack and other reporters were interrogating Governor Finch at a
34 news conference when the Governor, under pressure from the
35 reporters, told Jack that he would be very "pacific" on the
36 issues, and this phrase was forever added to Mississippi political
37 history; and

38 WHEREAS, Jack has covered numerous hurricanes, floods,
39 tornadoes and other natural disasters in Mississippi, witnessed
40 Mississippi's first execution since 1989 and has covered numerous
41 landmark cases argued before the Mississippi Supreme Court; and

42 WHEREAS, Jack gave the Mississippi Legislature a "face"
43 instead of being an anonymous entity so that the public would know
44 who the major players were; before Jack Elliott covered the
45 Legislature, most press coverage had previously focused on floor
46 action, but Jack was known to challenge legislators by attending
47 committee meetings and reporting committee action--which is where
48 the "nuts and bolts" of the legislative process occurs; and

49 WHEREAS, Jack Elliott has acted as a mentor for many young
50 Mississippi journalists over the years as they learned their trade
51 on the way to larger markets; and

52 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we recognize the career and
53 contributions to public policy of this Mississippi citizen who has
54 been a positive influence on the legislative process and on the
55 history of the State of Mississippi:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the longtime Capitol
58 Correspondent and editorial career of Jack M. Elliott, Jr., on the
59 occasion of his retirement after 25 years of covering the
60 Mississippi Legislature, thanking him for his contributions to the



61 history of Mississippi and extend to him the best wishes of the
62 Senate on his future endeavors.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
64 Jack Elliott and made available to The Associated Press and the
65 Capitol Press Corps.

