

By: Senator(s) King, Gollott, Morgan,
Dawkins, Wilemon, Lee (47th), Dearing, Hewes

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 535

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF HIGHLY DECORATED VETERAN GENERAL ROGER BARTON
3 JOHNSON OF HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY
4 OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, General Roger Barton Johnson, former executive
6 administrative assistant to University of Southern Mississippi
7 Presidents William D. McCain and Aubrey K. Lucas, died January 21,
8 2004, at his home in Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, a native of Amory, Mississippi, General Johnson was
10 a highly decorated veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in both the
11 European and Pacific theaters during World War II as an executive
12 officer with the 143rd Anti-Aircraft Battalion. Among many other
13 citations for his military service, General Johnson was awarded
14 the Purple Heart and in 1951 received the Mississippi Magnolia
15 Medal; and

16 WHEREAS, General Johnson earned his Bachelor's and Master's
17 Degrees from Mississippi State University, where he participated
18 in the university's ROTC program. In addition to his military
19 career, he also worked as a teacher and school principal. He came
20 to the University of Southern Mississippi in 1956 when the
21 university was known as "Mississippi Southern College"; and

22 WHEREAS, at the University of Southern Mississippi, his
23 duties included assisting in the oversight of property acquisition
24 for the expansion of the university, and in the schools'
25 transition from college to university status. He was also
26 instrumental in the formation of the University of Southern
27 Mississippi School of Nursing, the DuBard School for Language
28 Disorders and for the establishment of the University Libraries'

29 de Grummond Collection. He retired from the University of
30 Southern Mississippi in 1982; and

31 WHEREAS, we are indebted to General Johnson for his years of
32 tireless service to the University of Southern Mississippi and for
33 his work to transform the university into a leader among the
34 nation's institutions of higher learning; and

35 WHEREAS, survivors include: his wife, Hattie Mae Johnson;
36 four sons, Roger B. Johnson, Jr. of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania,
37 Stephen F. Johnson of New Castle, Delaware, Thomas Johnson of
38 Brussels, Belgium and Burney P. Johnson of Birmingham, Alabama; a
39 daughter, Memrie Kelly of New York, New York; 11 grandchildren and
40 one great-grandchild; and

41 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
42 dedicated public servant and veteran, whose career is a model to
43 citizens in the State of Mississippi:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
45 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
46 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of public service of
47 highly decorated veteran General Roger Barton Johnson of
48 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and express the sympathy of the
49 Legislature on his passing.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
51 the surviving family of General Johnson and University of Southern
52 Mississippi President Shelby Thames and be made available to the
53 Capitol Press Corps.