

By: Senator(s) Jackson (32nd), Bryan,
Harden, Butler, Chamberlin, Clarke, Dearing,
Frazier, Jackson (11th), Jordan, King,
Morgan, Posey, Thomas, Tollison, Turner,
White, Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 563

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING COLONEL
2 L.M. CLAIBORNE, JR., THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN TO BE APPOINTED
3 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND
4 DIRECTOR OF THE HIGHWAY SAFETY PATROL.

5 WHEREAS, on January 11, 2003, Colonel L.M. Claiborne, Jr. was
6 appointed as the Interim Assistant Commissioner of the Department
7 of Public Safety/Interim Director of the Mississippi Highway
8 Safety Patrol. On February 3, 2000, he was appointed by
9 Commissioner David R. Huggins as the Assistant Commissioner of the
10 Department of Public Safety/Director of the Mississippi Highway
11 Safety Patrol and promoted to the rank of Colonel; and

12 WHEREAS, he has served with the Mississippi Highway Safety
13 Patrol for over 23 years. Colonel Claiborne is the first
14 African-American to be appointed Assistant Commissioner of the
15 Department of Public Safety/Director of the Mississippi Highway
16 Safety Patrol in the agency's 65-year history; and

17 WHEREAS, Colonel Claiborne graduated with honors from S.V.
18 Marshall High School in Tchula, Mississippi, in 1975. He then
19 served in the United States Army Infantry from 1975 to 1979.
20 Following his discharge from the Army, Colonel Claiborne served 22
21 years with the Mississippi Army National Guard, Troop A 98th
22 Calvary, Louisville, Mississippi, before retiring in 2001. He
23 continued his education while in the military by attending Fort
24 Stillcum Community College in Tacoma, Washington, and Holmes
25 Community College in Goodman, Mississippi; and

26 WHEREAS, Colonel Claiborne began his career with the
27 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol in December 1980, as a Trooper
28 assigned to Troop H, Louisville, Mississippi. He was promoted to

29 the rank of Trooper First Class in December 1985 and in December
30 1987 to the rank of Staff Sergeant assigned as the Accident
31 Reconstructionist in Troops H and G. In March 1989, Colonel
32 Claiborne was among the first Highway Patrol Officers to attend
33 training for and become a Crime Scene Investigator with the rank
34 of Sergeant First Class; and

35 WHEREAS, in July 1994, Colonel Claiborne became a Master
36 Sergeant, Assistant Troop Commander, for Troop G in Starkville,
37 Mississippi. Throughout his career, Colonel Claiborne has served
38 as a Tactical Training Officer for several Mississippi Highway
39 Safety Patrol Cadet Classes. In April 1996, he was promoted to
40 the rank of Captain over the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol
41 Training Division. Many of the Officers he has trained continue
42 to serve the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol. Colonel Claiborne
43 also served as a member of the elite Mississippi Highway Safety
44 Patrol Honor Guard; and

45 WHEREAS, as the Assistant Commissioner for the Department of
46 Public Safety, Colonel Claiborne assists the Commissioner of
47 Public Safety in overseeing the operations of the Department of
48 Public Safety. In his capacity as the Director of Mississippi
49 Highway Safety Patrol, Colonel Claiborne appoints the directors of
50 and is responsible for the operations of the Office of Mississippi
51 Highway Safety Patrol, which consists of the Bureau of Uniform
52 Enforcement, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigations, the Driver
53 Services Bureau and various specialized divisions. He is also
54 responsible for the operations of the Office of the Mississippi
55 Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy. There are
56 approximately 500 sworn officers and approximately 290 civilian
57 employees under his command; and

58 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
59 singular achievement of this career law enforcement officer who
60 serves as a role model for his fellow troopers and brings honor to
61 the officers and civilians of the Mississippi Department of Public

62 Safety and the Highway Patrol, and to the State of Mississippi:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
64 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
65 we do hereby commend and congratulate Colonel L.M. Claiborne, Jr.,
66 the first African-American to be appointed Assistant Commissioner
67 of the Department of Public Safety and Director of the Highway
68 Safety Patrol, and extend to him and his family the best wishes of
69 the Legislature on his future endeavors.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
71 Colonel Claiborne, and be forwarded to the Commissioner of Public
72 Safety and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.