

By: Senator(s) Michel, Butler, Chaney,
Dearing, Frazier, Gordon, Harden, Harvey,
Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Little

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 571

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE POSTHUMOUS INDUCTION
2 OF LEE BAKER, AWARD-WINNING SPORTSWRITER WHO COVERED MISSISSIPPI
3 SPORTS FOR FIVE DECADES, INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME
4 CLASS OF 2004.

5 WHEREAS, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports
6 Hall of Fame has unveiled the Class of 2004 of the Mississippi
7 Sports Hall of Fame, which features the posthumous induction of
8 Lee Baker, award-winning sportswriter for *The Jackson Daily News*
9 and *The Clarion-Ledger*, who covered Mississippi sports for five
10 decades; and

11 WHEREAS, when inducted, he will join a group of six media
12 persons who are Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame members; and

13 WHEREAS, he was born on Staten Island, New York, and raised
14 in Wood River, Illinois. He attended Erskine College in South
15 Carolina and Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, where he
16 served as Editor of the school paper and Sports Information
17 Director. He began covering sports in Mississippi in 1948, worked
18 briefly for the Alton, Illinois, newspaper before returning to
19 Mississippi in 1955 to write for *The Jackson Daily News*; and

20 WHEREAS, Lee was named Sports Editor of *The Jackson Daily*
21 *News* in 1958 and wrote the famed "Bakers Dozen" column for 35
22 years; and

23 WHEREAS, he covered an estimated 10,000 basketball games,
24 2,500 football games, 7 Super Bowls, the NCAA Final Four, the NCAA
25 Track and Field Championships, the World Series, numerous college
26 bowl games, swimming meets, weightlifting contests, gymnastic
27 events and the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic games. His career spanned

28 10 United States Presidents, 19 Mississippi State football coaches
29 and 8 Ole Miss basketball coaches; and

30 WHEREAS, he received numerous writing awards and was a
31 five-time winner of Mississippi Sportswriter of the Year; was the
32 first person in Mississippi sports media history to cover
33 predominantly black colleges and high schools and one of the first
34 writers in the South to give women's athletics full coverage; and

35 WHEREAS, he retired from writing in 1998 and was a Charter
36 member of the Mississippi Sportswriters Association Hall of Fame
37 and became only the second noncoach to be inducted into the
38 Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame in 1979. He
39 passed away on April 22, 2003, at the age of 78; and

40 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
41 outstanding sportswriter who has brought honor to the State of
42 Mississippi:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
45 we do hereby commend the posthumous induction of Lee Baker,
46 award-winning sportswriter who covered Mississippi sports for five
47 decades, into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2004.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
49 the surviving family of Lee Baker at induction ceremonies, and be
50 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.