

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

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 574

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE POSTHUMOUS INDUCTION
2 OF DON OWENS, ALL-AMERICAN TACKLE FOR SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI AND THE
3 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S WASHINGTON REDSKINS, INTO THE
4 MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME, 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 Don Owens, All-American tackle for the University of Southern
9 Mississippi and the National Football League's Washington
10 Redskins; and

11 WHEREAS, a native of St. Louis, Missouri, who played several
12 sports at Southside Catholic High School, Don Owens fought in the
13 Korean War with the U.S. Marine Corps and played football in the
14 armed services league prior to his college football career; and

15 WHEREAS, a two way tackle who played at 6'6", 248 lbs. and
16 lettered at the University of Southern Mississippi from 1953-1956
17 where he was coached by Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame member
18 Thad "Pie" Vann; and

19 WHEREAS, he helped the Southerners compile a record of 31-9-1
20 with two bowl appearances and big wins over teams such as Alabama,
21 Florida State and Georgia, he was named sophomore All-American
22 after the 1954 season and was named First Team All-America by
23 Associated Press, Williamson Rating System, and Helms Foundation
24 in 1955 and his Senior season in 1956, he played in the 1956 East-
25 West Shrine All-Star Game and was named the South's Outstanding
26 Lineman in the 1957 Senior Bowl in Mobile, Alabama, he also played
27 in the 1957 Chicago College All-Star Game against the defending
28 National Football League Champion New York Giants; and

29 WHEREAS, Don Wells, 3rd Round draft choice, 30th pick
30 overall, in the 1957 National Football League draft by the
31 Pittsburgh Steelers who traded him to the Washington Redskins, he
32 played defensive tackle in the National Football League for 7
33 seasons from 1957-1963 with the Washington Redskins, the
34 Philadelphia Eagles and his hometown, St. Louis Cardinals; and

35 WHEREAS, he helped organize the National Football League
36 Players Association Union, returned to the University of Southern
37 Mississippi to serve as defensive line coach and defensive
38 coordinator in 1967 and 1968 and served as Executive Director for
39 the Missouri-AFL-CIO for 15 years; and

40 WHEREAS, Don Owens passed away on August 17, 1997 and was
41 inducted into the University of Southern Mississippi Athletic Hall
42 of Fame in 1966 and was selected as a member of the University of
43 Southern Mississippi Team of the Century in 2002; and

44 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this legend
45 of the gridiron who has brought honor to his university and to the
46 State of Mississippi:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
48 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
49 we do hereby commend the posthumous induction of Don Owens,
50 All-American tackle for Southern Mississippi and the National
51 Football League's Washington Redskins, into the Mississippi Sports
52 Hall of Fame, Class of 2004, and we extend the best wishes of the
53 Legislature to his family on this occasion.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 the family of Don Owens at induction ceremonies and be made
56 available to the Capitol Press Corps.