

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.