

By: Senator(s) Ross, Butler, Dawkins,  
Frazier, Jordan, Michel, Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 591

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF HONORABLE ALICE HOWRY DECELL WISE, LONGTIME  
3 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, AND  
4 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Alice Howry DeCell Wise of Madison, Mississippi,  
6 beloved mother, wife, spiritual leader and an Assistant Attorney  
7 General for 16 years, died on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November  
8 27, 2003; and

9 WHEREAS, Alice was born May 9, 1952, in Yazoo City,  
10 Mississippi, the daughter of Harriet Causey DeCell and the late  
11 Senator Herman Brister DeCell; and

12 WHEREAS, Alice graduated from Yazoo City High School, where  
13 she was Drum Major of the Band, then completed her Bachelor of  
14 Arts Degree at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts. Alice  
15 undertook graduate school studies at the University of  
16 Mississippi, where she earned a Master of Arts Degree in English  
17 and was also awarded her Juris Doctor Degree from the University  
18 of Mississippi Law School and was admitted to the Bar to practice  
19 law in the State of Mississippi; and

20 WHEREAS, with steadfast cheerfulness, Alice was someone who  
21 sacrificed everything for her family, without expecting any form  
22 of compensation; she struggled through law school as a single  
23 mother so that her children would receive the best education  
24 possible; and

25 WHEREAS, Alice placed high value on faith, family and work.  
26 She taught the gifted classes in Tylertown, Mississippi, and  
27 Kosciusko, Mississippi. Alice practiced law as an Assistant  
28 Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, and was a member of

29 the Mississippi Bar Association. Alice was a gifted researcher  
30 and writer, providing expert legal advice to the Attorney General  
31 and to city attorneys throughout the state. She was on the Law  
32 Review at the University of Mississippi Law School, and Editor of  
33 the school newspaper in Yazoo City that won the 1970 Commercial  
34 Appeal Award for Best High School Newspaper; and

35 WHEREAS, Alice married Robert Powell Wise of Jackson,  
36 Mississippi, on December 30, 1988. Three children blessed Alice's  
37 life: Laura Mary Young, Charles DeCell Young and Andrew Sherwood  
38 Wise. Family members include her mother, Harriet Causey DeCell  
39 Kuykendall; brother, Herman Brister DeCell, Jr.; sister, Harriet  
40 Causey DeCell Coffield; and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces,  
41 nephews and cousins, all of whom were cherished by Alice and loved  
42 her deeply; and

43 WHEREAS, Alice's family was the center of her life, second  
44 only to her faith. She treated religion as an extension of life,  
45 and her life was a form of worship. She devoted her life to  
46 following the will of God and it was obvious in everything she  
47 did; and

48 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this  
49 public servant whose life was an inspiration to family, friends  
50 and to citizens of the State of Mississippi:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
52 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
53 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of public service of  
54 Honorable Alice Howry DeCell Wise, longtime Assistant Attorney  
55 General for the State of Mississippi and daughter of the late  
56 Senator Herman DeCell, and express to her surviving family and  
57 friends the sympathy of the Legislature on her passing.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
59 the surviving family of Alice Wise and be made available to the  
60 Capitol Press Corps.