

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Turner, Walls,
Chamberlin, Robertson, Ross, Doxey, Frazier,
Harden, Jackson (11th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 621

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 SERVICE OF VETERAN UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI LAW PROFESSOR THOMAS
3 RAY (TOM) MASON, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, Thomas Ray (Tom) Mason, Professor of Law at the
5 University of Mississippi and a 30-year mainstay there, died on
6 Friday, April 16, 2004, at his home in Oxford; and

7 WHEREAS, joining the Ole Miss law faculty in 1973, Professor
8 Mason taught torts, evidence, trial advocacy, federal procedure
9 and oil and gas law. He coordinated the law school's student
10 internship and trial advocacy programs; and

11 WHEREAS, "As a member of the faculty, Tom Mason was loved and
12 admired by his students, faculty colleagues, members of our staff
13 and our law alumni," said Chancellor Robert Khayat. "In his
14 quiet, easy way, Tom was the conscience of the law school, always
15 concerned about those in need. We will miss Tom, but we will not
16 forget him. We are grateful for a life well lived"; and

17 WHEREAS, Professor Mason was presented the 2004 Outstanding
18 Law Professor of the Year Award at the law school's recent Awards
19 Day ceremony. Voted by the law school student body and funded by
20 the Law Alumni Chapter of the University of Mississippi Alumni
21 Association, the coveted award also went to Mason in 1975 and
22 1979; and

23 WHEREAS, "Tom was a great teacher, and his students knew that
24 he cared for them," said Sam Davis, Dean of the Law School. "And
25 he was a good friend. His steady influence will be missed at
26 the law school"; and

27 WHEREAS, Professor Mason attended the University of Oklahoma
28 on an athletic scholarship, receiving a Bachelor's Degree in
29 Geology in 1957. He served two years in the United States Army,
30 working one year as counsel in the military courts. Mason entered
31 the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 1959 and worked as a
32 law clerk at various firms during his law school career; and

33 WHEREAS, Mason was honored in 1999 with the John Rogers Award
34 as a member of the Board of Editors of the *Oil and Gas Reporter*,
35 published by the Southwestern Legal Foundation. The annual award
36 recognizes those who have made notable contributions in the field
37 of oil and gas law; and

38 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Darlene Calmes Mason,
39 and two sons and their families: Mark and Kim Mason and sons,
40 Lake and Cal, of Cedartown, Georgia; and Drew and Darla Mason and
41 daughter, Bani, of Huntsville, Alabama; and

42 WHEREAS, to many of his students, Tom was the best professor
43 on campus, as evidenced when 175 law students, wearing white
44 T-shirts that read "For Mason" remembered him at the annual
45 Run/Walk for a Cure, and by the memorial service on April 19,
46 2004, dedicated to Mason's life and his 31 years at Ole Miss; and

47 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
48 veteran law professor who earned the respect of his students and
49 brought honor and prestige to his university, his community and to
50 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 service of veteran
54 University of Mississippi Law Professor Thomas Ray (Tom) Mason of
55 Oxford, Mississippi, and express to his wife and surviving family
56 the sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

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