

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.