

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Hewes, Dawkins,
Moffatt, Robertson, Cuevas, Lee (47th),
Frazier, Jordan

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE
2 HUMANITARIAN SERVICE OF DR. JOHN B. O'KEEFE AND EXPRESSING THE
3 SYMPATHY OF THE SENATE TO HIS FAMILY UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. John B. O'Keefe died Sunday, March 14, 2004, in
5 Ocean Springs, Mississippi; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. John B. O'Keefe was a devoted husband and father
7 to his family; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe was known for devoting his time, medical
9 talents and wealth to the service of his fellowman; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe was born January 30, 1925, in Ocean
11 Springs, Mississippi; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe attended Sacred Heart High School in
13 Biloxi; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe served his country in the U.S. Army Air
15 Corps from 1943 to 1945, earning his pilot wings and was honorably
16 discharged with the rank of Captain; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe attended Loyola University in New
18 Orleans, graduated from the Tulane School of Medicine in 1951 and
19 obtained his specialty in Orthopedic Surgery at Louisiana State
20 University; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe retired from his full-time practice in
22 Biloxi in 1989; and

23 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe continued to practice Orthopedics from
24 1990 to 1997 with the New Orleans Orthopedic Clinic; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe loved helping people and often treated
26 patients who could not afford his services; and

27 WHEREAS, in the summer of 1968, Dr. O'Keefe volunteered to be
28 a physician to the Vietnamese Civilians in Vietnam through the
29 American Medical Association; and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe was a respected Orthopedic surgeon who
31 was a Fellow of the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery and the
32 Irish American Orthopedic Society; and

33 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe was an active and faithful member of the
34 Nativity Cathedral Parish; and

35 WHEREAS, his faith and dedicated humanitarian service was
36 instrumental in the development of missions that aid the children
37 of Saltillo, Mexico; and

38 WHEREAS, his generosity helped establish the Saltillo Mission
39 Church in Saltillo, Mexico; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe also funded the construction of three
41 additional churches, Saint Lucian, Saint Susanna and Saint David
42 outside of Saltillo, in honor of members of his family; and

43 WHEREAS, Dr. O'Keefe was a supporter of the St. Vincent
44 Society, the Covenant House in New Orleans and Marinoll Missions;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, in recognition and gratitude for his 25 years of
47 faithful support of the Benedictine Mission House, Dr. O'Keefe
48 received an Apostolic Blessing in 2002 from Pope John Paul II; and

49 WHEREAS, Dr. John B. O'Keefe is survived by his daughter,
50 Colleen O'Keefe Rush, and her husband, Dr. Daniel S. Rush, of
51 Johnson City, Tennessee; his sons, Dennis C. O'Keefe and his wife,
52 Shellie Semski O'Keefe of Biloxi, Mississippi; Daniel B. O'Keefe
53 and his wife, Celeste Foster O'Keefe of Ocean Springs,
54 Mississippi; and David S. O'Keefe and his wife, Rebecca Borries
55 O'Keefe of Biloxi, Mississippi; his sister, Alice O'Keefe
56 Sebastian of Biloxi, Mississippi; and his brother, Jeremiah J.
57 O'Keefe III of Biloxi, Mississippi; and is also survived by 13
58 grandchildren; and

59 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Senate to recognize and
60 commend the humanitarian service of Mississippians such as Dr.
61 John B. O'Keefe, who devoted his life to serving his family, his
62 faith and his fellowman:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
64 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life and legacy of the
65 humanitarian service of Dr. John B. O'Keefe and express our
66 deepest sympathy to his family.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
68 presented to the family of Dr. John B. O'Keefe.