

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHARITABLE AND
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE FRANK DURAND STIMLEY, AND
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE SENATE.

4 WHEREAS, respected attorney Frank Stimley of Jackson,
5 Mississippi, who supported many local charities, has passed away;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Frank Durand Stimley, Esquire, was born February 17,
8 1948 in Chicago, Illinois. He was the third child born to
9 Charles Edmond Stimley (deceased) and Bernice Allen Stimley.
10 Charles and Bernice Stimley were native Mississippians who had
11 moved to Chicago in the mid-1930's, after finishing Alcorn
12 College. In 1950, when Frank was two years old, his parents
13 decided to go against the tide of migration to the North. They
14 left Chicago, returned to their native Mississippi, and opened a
15 business with Bernice Stimley's brother, Sherman Lloyd Allen
16 ("S.L."). They located the business in the Georgetown area of
17 Jackson, on the corner of Carver Street and Mobile Avenue; and

18 WHEREAS, growing up in the store, Frank was a promising
19 businessman by the early age of ten. Frank would always credit
20 much of his career success to his parents (Charles and Bernice
21 Stimley) and the valuable academic preparation he received at
22 Lanier High School in Jackson, Mississippi. Frank was
23 Valedictorian of his 1965 Lanier High School Class and he was
24 elected Mr. Lanier. A standout football and baseball player, he
25 turned down an opportunity to play professional baseball for the
26 St. Louis Cardinals, to attend Columbia University in New York
27 City; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1969, Frank received his undergraduate Bachelor
29 of Arts Degree in Electrical Engineering from Columbia University,
30 with honors. He was an outstanding star baseball player on the
31 Columbia University team. In the fall of 1969, Frank decided to
32 move from his college major of electrical engineering into
33 business by entering Harvard Business School's MBA program. Still
34 seeking excellence, Frank wasn't satisfied to obtain one degree
35 from Harvard University. One year later, he applied for and was
36 admitted into Harvard's joint degree program in law and business.
37 Frank joined his sister Pernila at Harvard University Law School
38 in 1970. A year later, Sherman Stimley joined them at Harvard Law
39 School. This remarkable academic feat made the Stimley's first
40 family to ever have three siblings at Harvard Law School at the
41 same time; and

42 WHEREAS, Frank was graduated in 1973, from both Harvard Law
43 School and Harvard Business School, receiving a Juris Doctorate
44 Degree (J.D.) and a Masters in Business Administration (M.B.A.),
45 both with honors. He remains one of a select few African
46 Americans in the country to have accomplished this distinction.
47 Immediately after graduation, Frank married Cynthia Bagwell, of
48 Boston, Massachusetts. They were married in the historic Charles
49 Street A.M.E. Church. To this union of thirty-one years, two
50 children were born, Kahrna and Vincent; and

51 WHEREAS, still a trailblazer, Frank decided to turn down job
52 offers in Massachusetts and New York and return to Mississippi
53 after his graduation, where he became the first African American
54 lawyer hired by a major law firm in the State of Mississippi, Wise
55 Carter Child Steen & Caraway. He also became the first African
56 American lawyer to become a partner with that firm. His
57 association with the Wise Carter law firm afforded him the
58 opportunity to work for most of the major investment banks and
59 lending institutions in the state; and

60 WHEREAS, on March 1, 1982, Attorney Stimley made another
61 significant career decision. Deciding he could better help his
62 community and his family by opening his own law firm, he founded
63 the Law Office of Frank D. Stimley that same year. Frank was
64 always known as a "man with a plan" and his firm quickly developed
65 the reputation for providing top quality legal service. Simply
66 put, Frank's reputation was one of legal excellence; and

67 WHEREAS, operating a general civil practice, but also
68 concentrating in Real Estate, Public Finance and Corporate
69 transactions, Frank became one of the first African American
70 lawyers in Mississippi to earn the coveted distinction of being
71 listed in the "Red Book". This recognition is given to lawyers
72 who have handled financial transactions which exceed \$1 Billion
73 Dollars. His brother Sherman Stimley was the first African
74 American attorney in the State of Texas to gain this same
75 recognition; and

76 WHEREAS, he served as a Deacon at Morningstar Baptist Church
77 for 18 years under Dr. M.K. Nelson, and after his death, also
78 served as a Deacon with Progressive Morning Star Baptist Church
79 under Bishop Charles W. Garrett; and

80 WHEREAS, Frank used his legal talents to assist many
81 charitable causes. He was intimately involved in helping secure
82 the financing for numerous churches, Head Start programs, medical
83 clinics and non-profit organizations. He provided services for
84 Jackson Redevelopment Authority and other economic development
85 entities for over two decades; and

86 WHEREAS, Frank's involvement in providing legal assistance to
87 numerous charitable organizations including Friends of Children,
88 Stewpot, Catholic Charities and the United Way was recognized on
89 numerous occasions and he received countless awards and
90 certificates. He was personally very proud of his legal
91 contributions to the Farish Street Redevelopment Program; and

92 WHEREAS, Frank's contribution and legacy to his family,
93 church, legal and general community will live on through the many
94 lives he has positively affected; and

95 WHEREAS, he leaves numerous friends and family to mourn him
96 and it is with great sadness that we note the passing of this
97 individual whose well documented contributions to his community
98 and state serve as an example to all Mississippians:

99 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
100 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life and legacy of
101 charitable and public service of the Honorable Frank Durand
102 Stimley of Jackson, Mississippi, and express to his surviving
103 family the sympathy of the Senate on his passing.

104 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
105 his mother, Mrs. Bernice Allen Stimley and his wife, Mrs. Cynthia
106 Bagwell Stimley and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.