

By: Senator(s) Chaney, Michel,  
Burton, Clarke

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 7

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF WELL-KNOWN PORTERS CHAPEL  
2 ACADEMY HEAD FOOTBALL COACH AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, GERALD CRAWFORD  
3 "BUBBA" MIMS, JR., AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE SENATE.

4 WHEREAS, Gerald Crawford "Bubba" Mims, Jr., Head Football  
5 Coach and Athletic Director at Porters Chapel Academy (PCA), died  
6 Sunday, May 16, 2004, in Vicksburg, Mississippi, at the age of 46.  
7 His funeral was among the largest in the history of Vicksburg; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Mims was a Vicksburg native, the second of five  
9 children of the late Crawford and Betty "Boop" Nosser Mims, and a  
10 1974 graduate of Vicksburg High School; and

11 WHEREAS, he was a star baseball and football player for  
12 Vicksburg High School, and helped the Gators to the 1973 Big Eight  
13 Football Championship, the equivalent of a state title today. He  
14 went on to play football at Ole Miss, where he lettered for one  
15 season; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Mims, who only stood about 5-foot-8, often used  
17 his experiences as an undersized linebacker for the Ole Miss  
18 Rebels to inspire his players or remind them that all it took was  
19 a little hard work to succeed; and

20 WHEREAS, after graduating from Ole Miss in 1979, Mr. Mims  
21 began working in his father's chain of convenience stores and  
22 eventually became manager and owner. He continued working there  
23 until September 2000, when he filled the coaching void at PCA four  
24 games into the season; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Mims, who had a son on the junior high team and  
26 knew most of the players from a summer baseball team he coached,  
27 initially agreed to filling in at the private K-12 school for the

28 rest of the season. He was hired as the permanent Coach and  
29 Athletic Director the following spring. Mr. Mims had coached a  
30 summer baseball team, the Culkin Critters, for several years  
31 before taking over at PCA. Being a full-time coach brought him  
32 even greater joy and seemed to fill a void in his life, Johnny  
33 Mims said; and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Mims posted a 20-21 record in three-plus seasons  
35 as PCA's Coach, but he also left his mark as the school's Athletic  
36 Director. In that post, Mr. Mims helped the athletic program grow  
37 to new heights. PCA started new programs in track, golf - which  
38 Mr. Mims coached - and powerlifting, and also made the transition  
39 from slow-pitch softball to fast-pitch. Capital improvements were  
40 also made to the school's gym, baseball field and football field.  
41 Long-term projects to build a new fieldhouse and football stadium  
42 were also started; and

43 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Karen; sons Gerald and  
44 Judd; daughters Claire, Paige and Jessica, all of Vicksburg,  
45 Mississippi; brothers Peter and Johnny (of Vicksburg) and Paul, of  
46 West Monroe, Louisiana; and sister Renee Boyce of West Monroe,  
47 Louisiana; and

48 WHEREAS, this untimely death was a loss for the Mims family,  
49 the Porters Chapel Academy, the City of Vicksburg and the State of  
50 Mississippi:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
52 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life of well-known  
53 Porters Chapel Academy Head Football Coach and Athletic Director,  
54 Gerald Crawford "Bubba" Mims, Jr., and express to his wife and  
55 surviving family the sympathy of the Senate on his passing.

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