

By: Senator(s) Hyde-Smith

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING PAUL JACKSON OF
2 BROOKHAVEN, MISSISSIPPI, THE DAILY LEADER'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR.

3 WHEREAS, Paul Jackson's passion for Brookhaven, Mississippi,
4 and his efforts to make it a better place have earned him the
5 honor of being "*The Daily Leader's* Citizen of the Year." Those
6 close to him say he is truly deserving; and

7 WHEREAS, born and raised in Brookhaven, Jackson grew up the
8 son of a bricklayer. He spent his early years learning about
9 construction from his father, Lucius, and studying the
10 architecture of Brookhaven. His mother was Beatrice Jackson; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1943, he graduated from Brookhaven High School
12 and was drafted into the Army that same year. He served in Europe
13 during World War II; and

14 WHEREAS, in his military tenure, he served as a light machine
15 gunner in the European Theatre. He also participated in the
16 campaigns at Normandy, Northern France and the Ardennes. He was
17 discharged in 1946 with a Bronze Star as a token of his gallant
18 service; and

19 WHEREAS, when he returned home, he went to Whitworth College
20 from 1947-1948, married Charlotte Warren and also worked with his
21 father in bricklaying; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1953, he started his own construction company on
23 the prompting of his father, who encouraged his son to follow in
24 his footsteps and stay in the field. In its beginnings, the
25 business included only a Ford pickup truck and a wheelbarrow; and

26 WHEREAS, Jackson's first contract job was building a little
27 grocery store on Brookhaven's Washington Street. From there,

28 Jackson went out to bid for work. When he didn't get general
29 contracting orders, he did masonry projects. He did what he could
30 to make a living since the war slowed construction activity; and

31 WHEREAS, in the 1950's and 1960's, construction picked up,
32 and Jackson started collaborating with Moreton and Pell, one of
33 the major contractors during that time; and

34 WHEREAS, around this time, his two children, Jennifer and
35 Paul W., were born; and

36 WHEREAS, Jackson's construction company incorporated in 1979,
37 one year before his pinnacle co-purchase of the Inez Hotel in
38 1980. Jackson and the late John W. "Dub" Sproles, along with
39 several other investors, bought "The Inez" from Mississippi
40 College. D.A. Biglane, who had bought "The Inez" in 1945, had
41 donated the building to the school in 1974. The renovation began
42 on December 20, 1986. Real Estate Agent Betsy Smith helped with
43 plans and Jean Rose Smith became "The Inez" apartment's first
44 tenant on July 17, 1987. Residents say Jackson will forever be
45 recognized for his efforts at "The Inez"; and

46 WHEREAS, his love for and dedication to preserving the
47 history of Brookhaven in many ways goes unsung; and

48 WHEREAS, Jackson also played a part in preserving the
49 Whitworth College campus, which has become the Mississippi School
50 of the Arts, and transforming the old railroad depot into a
51 military museum for veterans; and

52 WHEREAS, in 1996, Jackson officially turned his construction
53 company over to his son, who has been working with him since 1979.
54 His son said his father's work ethics and character have been as
55 solid as the buildings he has constructed; and

56 WHEREAS, family is very important to the 79-year-old retired
57 businessman. He and his wife have three grandchildren, Lindsey
58 and Carly Whittier and John Paul Jackson, whom they love being
59 around. Next to his family, church and serving others are top
60 priorities for Jackson. He has been a Deacon at First Baptist

61 Church since the late 1950's, and frequently visits the sick in
62 hospitals and nursing homes; and

63 WHEREAS, although Paul Jackson may not have sought
64 recognition for his efforts, the City of Brookhaven has noticed
65 and appreciated what he has done, and the State of Mississippi
66 also recognizes his civic contributions to his community and to
67 his state:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
69 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Paul
70 Jackson of Brookhaven, Mississippi, "*The Daily Leader's* Citizen of
71 the Year," and extend to him and his family the best wishes of the
72 Senate on his future endeavors.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
74 Paul Jackson and his family and be made available to the Capitol
75 Press Corps.