

By: Senator(s) Nunnelee, Bryan,  
Little, Burton, Gordon, Mettetal

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 505

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER SENATOR PERRIN H. PURVIS OF TUPELO,  
3 MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Perrin H. Purvis, former Mississippi State Senator,  
5 died Friday, October 30, 2004, at his Tupelo, Mississippi, home at  
6 the age of 86; and

7 WHEREAS, family and friends said improving Mississippi's  
8 education system was the Democratic Senator's main goal in a  
9 legislative career lasting from 1964 to 1988. He believed in  
10 education and what education could do for Mississippians; and

11 WHEREAS, he authored the amendment in the State Senate to the  
12 Education Reform Act of 1982 that provided state funds for  
13 mandatory kindergarten classes in public schools; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Purvis was a prominent retired businessman  
15 with interests in insurance and television. He attended the  
16 University of Southern Mississippi, where he was a member of the  
17 school's M Club, served as President of the USM Alumni  
18 Association, and was inducted into the USM Sports Hall of Fame.  
19 He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He was  
20 a Shriner, a member of the American Legion and a 32nd Degree  
21 Mason. He was also appointed to the Governor's Commission of  
22 Children and Youth and the Mississippi Community College Board.  
23 He was Chairman of the Tupelo Public School Board and served as  
24 President of the Tupelo Kiwanis Club, the International Fly  
25 Fisherman's Conclave and the Conference of Insurance Legislators.  
26 During his 24 years in the Senate, he served as Chairman of the

27 Senate Insurance Committee. He was a member of First United  
28 Methodist Church in Tupelo; and

29 WHEREAS, Senator Purvis liked to fly fish and was a great  
30 public speaker. He traveled to several cities and gave a speech  
31 called, "Pan fish and politics"; and

32 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this  
33 respected Senator, whose legacy featured public school  
34 kindergartens and a new highway program for Mississippi, and whose  
35 career serves as a model for all citizens in the State of  
36 Mississippi:

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
38 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
39 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of public service of  
40 former State Senator Perrin H. Purvis of Tupelo, Mississippi, and  
41 extend to his daughter and grandchildren the sympathy of the  
42 Legislature on his passing.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
44 the surviving family of Senator Purvis and be made available to  
45 the Capitol Press Corps.