

By: Senator(s) Little, Chaney, Burton,
Brown, Browning, Butler, Carmichael, Davis,
Doxey, Flowers, Frazier, Gollott, Gordon,
Harden, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jackson
(15th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Kirby,
Lee (35th), Mettetal, Michel, Moffatt,
Nunnelee, Pickering, Robertson, Ross,
Simmons, Thames, Walley, Walls, White,
Wilemon, Dearing, Posey, Morgan

To: Rules

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 507

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 FORMER MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR KIRK FORDICE AND EXPRESSING THE
3 SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE ON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, former Mississippi Governor Daniel Kirkwood "Kirk"
5 Fordice, Jr., passed away on Tuesday, September 7, 2004; and

6 WHEREAS, Governor Fordice served as Governor of the State of
7 Mississippi from 1992-2000; and

8 WHEREAS, Governor Fordice will go down in history for
9 significant firsts: trailblazing as the first GOP Governor since
10 Reconstruction, establishing Mississippi as a true two-party
11 state, being the first to win back-to-back gubernatorial terms in
12 modern times, championing private enterprise, and as a
13 non-politician who earned the respect even of his foes. He left a
14 memorable, lasting mark; and

15 WHEREAS, on January 14, 1992, Fordice became Mississippi's
16 61st Governor, making him the first Republican elected as its
17 Chief Executive in 118 years. On November 7, 1995, Mississippians
18 went to the polls and ensured Fordice yet another place in
19 Mississippi history as the only Mississippi Governor in the
20 Twentieth Century elected to serve two consecutive four-year
21 terms, and as only the second Governor to do so since statehood in
22 1817. Governor Fordice proposed and signed into law legislation
23 to eliminate the marriage penalty in the state income tax code,
24 created charter schools, banned same-sex marriages and
25 partial-birth abortions. He imprinted his brand of fiscal
26 conservatism on Mississippi's budget by creating the first-ever
27 "Rainy Day Fund" and leaving Mississippi's budget with a surplus.

28 He introduced welfare reform and the creation of a statewide
29 trauma care network to Mississippi; and

30 WHEREAS, he was born February 10, 1934, in Memphis,
31 Tennessee. After graduation from East High School, where he was
32 President of the student body, a varsity football player, a
33 swimmer and Commander of the ROTC Battalion, Fordice attended
34 Purdue University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Civil
35 Engineering in 1956, and a Master's Degree in Industrial
36 Management in 1957. In 1996, he received the Civil Engineering
37 Achievement Award through the Purdue University School of
38 Engineering. He was a life member of Sigma Chi Fraternity.
39 Following graduate school, Fordice served two years' active duty
40 as an Engineer Officer in the First Infantry Division of the U.S.
41 Army. He served 18 more years in the Army Reserve, and retired in
42 1977 from the Reserve with the rank of Colonel at age 43; and

43 WHEREAS, Fordice was former CEO of Fordice Construction
44 Company, a heavy-construction general contracting firm. Fordice
45 became national President of the Associated General Contractors of
46 America (AGC) in 1990. In 1992, AGC, whose 32,000 member
47 companies employ 3.5 million people, presented its "Man of the
48 Year" award to Governor Fordice, the first time the award had ever
49 gone to a member of the association. Governor Fordice was a
50 registered professional engineer, a fellow of the American Society
51 of Civil Engineers and past-president of its Vicksburg branch.
52 Fordice was an avid outdoorsman and horseman. He competed
53 regularly in cutting-horse competitions throughout Mississippi and
54 won titles in these competitions. He was a member of both Game
55 Conservation International and the Safari Club International, and
56 has listings in Rowlands and Wards and SCI Big Game record books.
57 He was also an active pilot and held a commercial pilot's license
58 with instrument and multiengine ratings; and

59 WHEREAS, Governor Fordice's surviving family is former First
60 Lady of Mississippi, Pat, of Madison; his daughter, Angie Roselle

61 of Vicksburg; his sons, Hunter Fordice and Dan Fordice of
62 Vicksburg; and Dr. Jim Fordice of Nashville, Tennessee; 12
63 grandchildren; and his beloved dog, Lance; and

64 WHEREAS, we mourn with the Fordice family for the loss of a
65 loved one, and we mourn with Mississippi for the loss of a leader:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
68 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of former Mississippi
69 Governor Kirk Fordice and express to his surviving family the
70 sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
72 the surviving family of Governor Fordice and be made available to
73 the Capitol Press Corps.