

By: Senator(s) Michel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 540

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE POSTHUMOUS INDUCTION
2 OF LEGENDARY SPORTSCASTER BILL GOODRICH INTO THE MISSISSIPPI
3 SPORTS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2005.

4 WHEREAS, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports
5 Hall of Fame has unveiled the Class of 2005 of the Mississippi
6 Sports Hall of Fame, which features the posthumous induction of
7 legendary sportscaster, Bill Goodrich; and

8 WHEREAS, Bill Goodrich was an outstanding sportscaster who
9 served as play-by-play announcer for the Ole Miss Rebels, Southern
10 Mississippi Golden Eagles, the Louisville Cardinals, the Clemson
11 Tigers, and the ABA Kentucky Colonels; and

12 WHEREAS, upon induction, he will become the seventh sports
13 media member of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame; and

14 WHEREAS, his trademark call was "Whew-Hoo Mercy!"; and

15 WHEREAS, a native of Pennsylvania, who was raised in
16 Fond-Du-Lac, Wisconsin, and attended Wisconsin on a boxing
17 scholarship, Bill was an Army veteran who took part in the D-Day
18 Invasion in World War II and received two Purple Heart medals, the
19 Bronze Star, Silver Star, and a Presidential Citation; and

20 WHEREAS, Bill served as play-by-play announcer for Jackson
21 Central High School, Hinds Junior College (now Hinds Community
22 College), and Jackson Senators Baseball Team in the old
23 Southeastern League from 1947-1952; and

24 WHEREAS, he re-created road games from Western Union reports;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, Bill was the Sports Director at WLBT-TV and
27 play-by-play announcer for the Ole Miss Rebels from 1958-1965. He

28 called the action of three Rebel national championship and SEC
29 title teams, worked the Gator Bowl, the Cotton Bowl, the
30 Bluebonnet Bowl, and four Sugar Bowls while announcing Ole Miss
31 football games led by Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame member Coach
32 John Vaught; and

33 WHEREAS, he was the voice of the Clemson Tigers from
34 1965-1969, TV Voice of the old ABA Kentucky Colonels franchise and
35 road radio announcer for the Louisville Cardinals Basketball Team
36 from 1969-1972, returned to Mississippi in 1972 to WFOR Radio in
37 Hattiesburg and became longtime voice of Southern Mississippi
38 Golden Eagle Football, Basketball, and Baseball; and

39 WHEREAS, Bill mentored current Southern Mississippi
40 play-by-play voice John Cox and while at Southern Mississippi, he
41 called games involving Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Coaches
42 P.W. "Bear" Underwood and Bobby Collins; and

43 WHEREAS, Bill Goodrich passed away in 1999 at the age of 84;
44 and

45 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
46 outstanding sports personality who was part of the fabric of
47 sports in Mississippi for decades and brought honor to the State
48 of Mississippi:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
50 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
51 we do hereby recognize the posthumous induction of legendary
52 sportscaster Bill Goodrich into the Mississippi Sports Hall of
53 Fame, Class of 2005, and extend to his surviving family the best
54 wishes of the Legislature.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
56 the surviving family of Bill Goodrich at induction ceremonies, and
57 be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.