

By: Senator(s) Michel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 543

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING HANFORD
2 DIXON, ALL-AMERICAN AND ALL-PRO DEFENSIVE BACK FOR THE UNIVERSITY
3 OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI AND THE CLEVELAND BROWNS, UPON HIS
4 INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME, CLASS OF 2005.

5 WHEREAS, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports
6 Hall of Fame has unveiled the Class of 2005 of the Mississippi
7 Sports Hall of Fame, which features Hanford Dixon, All-American
8 and All-Pro Defensive Back, who was a star for the University of
9 Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles and the NFL's Cleveland Browns;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, a native of Mobile, Alabama, and three-sport
12 letterman at Theodore High School in Theodore, Alabama, Hanford
13 Dixon played for Mississippi Hall of Fame member Bobby Collins at
14 the University of Southern Mississippi from 1977-1980 and was one
15 of the best defensive backs in the nation with the "Nasty Bunch"
16 defense; and

17 WHEREAS, he was named First Team All-South and All-American
18 by *The Sporting News* after his Senior season in 1980. During his
19 college career, he had 9 interceptions and 188 tackles, 127 of
20 which were solo stops, while leading a nationally ranked secondary
21 that helped the Golden Eagles compile a record of 28-17-1 with an
22 Independence Bowl victory over McNeese State and played in the
23 1980 Blue-Gray game and the 1981 Senior Bowl; and

24 WHEREAS, Hanford was a first-round draft choice by the
25 Cleveland Browns in the 1981 NFL draft, the 22nd player selected
26 overall, and his NFL career spanned nine seasons and 131 games
27 from 1981-1989; and

28 WHEREAS, he was selected to the NFL All-Rookie team in 1981.
29 He teamed with Frank Minnifield to form one of the NFL's finest
30 defensive back tandems; and

31 WHEREAS, Hanford Dixon originated the "Dawgs" nickname for
32 the Cleveland defenses; he was chosen as First Team All-Pro in
33 1986 and 1987; he played in four straight Pro Bowls from 1985-1988
34 and was named as NFL Alumni Defensive Back of the Year in 1987.
35 In 1988, he was a Pro Bowl starter with his longtime teammate,
36 Minnifield, the first time in the game's history that two
37 cornerbacks from the same team started together; and

38 WHEREAS, he was a member of Brown's teams that played in
39 three famed AFC Championship games in 1987, 1988 and 1990, and
40 lost to John Elway's Denver Clubs; and

41 WHEREAS, he finished his pro career with 26 interceptions,
42 440 tackles and 100 passes defended; and

43 WHEREAS, Hanford Dixon was inducted into the Southern
44 Mississippi Athletic Hall of Fame in 1988; and

45 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this gifted
46 athlete who has brought honor to his university and to the State
47 of Mississippi:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
50 we do hereby commend and congratulate Hanford Dixon, All-American
51 and All-Pro Defensive Back for the University of Southern
52 Mississippi and the Cleveland Browns, upon his induction into the
53 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2005, and wish him and
54 his family continued success in all their future endeavors.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
56 Hanford Dixon at induction ceremonies and be made available to the
57 Capitol Press Corps.