

By: Senator(s) Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 576

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING WILLIAM GRADY SMITH FOR 68
2 YEARS OF EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE IN MISSISSIPPI STATE
3 GOVERNMENT AND FOR HIS EXEMPLARY LIFE AS A CITIZEN OF THE STATE OF
4 MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, William Grady Smith recently completed 68 years of
6 exceptional public service in Mississippi state government; and

7 WHEREAS, Grady Smith was born on January 1, 1911, in
8 Meridian, Mississippi, the son of the late Joseph Johnson and Lula
9 Stallings Smith; and

10 WHEREAS, Grady Smith graduated from Meridian High School in
11 1928, and furthered his education at Mississippi College where he
12 became known as "Trombone Smith," and where he received a Bachelor
13 of Arts degree in English and Mathematics in 1932. After
14 graduation, he studied Accounting at Meridian Business College
15 until 1933; and

16 WHEREAS, Grady Smith began work in 1934 as a Social
17 Caseworker for the Meridian Transient Bureau, and continued there
18 until the agency closed in 1935. From 1935-1936, he worked as a
19 Payroll Clerk for Weaver Construction Company of Jackson; and

20 WHEREAS, Grady Smith began his career in Mississippi state
21 government in 1936 as an Office Clerk at the State Highway
22 Department; and

23 WHEREAS, Grady Smith was employed as a Junior Claims Examiner
24 at the Mississippi Unemployment Compensation Commission on March
25 14, 1938. After 14 days on the job, he was promoted to Senior
26 Claims Examiner and helped process the first unemployment
27 compensation claims filed in Mississippi on April 1, 1938; and

28 WHEREAS, Grady Smith continued his work with the Mississippi
29 Unemployment Compensation Commission, which in 1948 became the
30 Mississippi Employment Security Commission, rising through the
31 ranks as Status Deputy, Appeals Referee, Chief of Fraud Prevention
32 and Detection and Chief of Benefit Payments; and

33 WHEREAS, Grady Smith, as Chief of Benefit Payments, wrote the
34 state regulations administering the disbursement of the first
35 Disaster Unemployment Assistance claims in 1969, resulting from
36 Hurricane Camille. These regulations, which Mr. Smith was
37 commended for on a federal level, remain in effect today; and

38 WHEREAS, while employed by the Mississippi Employment
39 Security Commission, Grady Smith was the Regional Representative
40 on the Board of the International Association of Personnel in
41 Employment Security (IAPES), and served as President of the
42 Mississippi chapter of that association. Mr. Smith has also
43 received IAPES Service Awards for 15, 25 and 35 years of
44 dedication to his work; and

45 WHEREAS, Grady Smith served as Chief of Benefit Payments from
46 March 1, 1955, until his retirement on January 30, 1976, with 40
47 years of state service; and

48 WHEREAS, Grady Smith was reinstated as a retiree-hire on
49 September 7, 1976, as an Appeals Referee with the Board of Review
50 on a part-time basis, and served in that capacity for 28 years
51 until December 15, 2004, when the Mississippi Employment Security
52 Commission was reorganized into the Mississippi Department of
53 Employment Security; and

54 WHEREAS, Grady Smith was married to Ruby Annette Greer on
55 June 22, 1937, and to this union four children were born: Dorothy
56 Jo Smith Antrim, Alice Ann Smith (deceased), Margie Mae Smith
57 Coulson Antrim and William David Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Smith also
58 have six grandchildren, Stuart Lamar Antrim, Sharon Leigh Antrim
59 Smith, Susan Lynn Antrim Rayburn, Steven Glenn Antrim, Christopher
60 Keith Coulson and William Matthew Smith; and six

61 great-grandchildren, Nathan Drew Antrim, Emily Anne Rayburn, Anna
62 Kathryn Antrim, Sarah Beth Smith, Reese Antrim Rayburn and
63 McKenzie Grace Smith; and

64 WHEREAS, Grady Smith has been a member of Calvary Baptist
65 Church since 1938, and has served faithfully as a Deacon, Chairman
66 of the Deacon Board, Assistant Church Treasurer, Sunday School
67 Director and Teacher, Director of the Baptist Training Union and
68 President of the Brotherhood. He has earned respect for his
69 knowledge of the scriptures and the practical application of that
70 knowledge to everyday life; and

71 WHEREAS, Grady Smith has served his community as a member of
72 the West Jackson/Metro Civitan Club and was elected President of
73 this organization; and

74 WHEREAS, Grady Smith has been exemplary in his personal and
75 professional life, which is evidenced by the numerous family,
76 coworkers and friends who seek his advice and counsel. He has
77 been an exceptionally qualified and dedicated public servant who
78 has devoted 68 years of his life in service to the State of
79 Mississippi:

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
81 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
82 we do hereby commend William Grady Smith for his outstanding
83 service to the State of Mississippi and honor him as an exemplary
84 citizen of the State of Mississippi.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
86 William Grady Smith and be made available to the Capitol Press
87 Corps.