

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Williamson, Harden, Gollott, Hewes, Hyde-Smith, Burton, Carmichael, Dearing, Frazier To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 594

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 EDUCATIONAL, CIVIC AND CHARITABLE SERVICE OF DR. KATHARINE REA, OF
3 GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE
4 LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Katherine Rea, well-known and respected educator
6 and humanitarian from Gulfport, Mississippi, passed away on
7 Sunday, March 13, 2005; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Rea was reared in Meridian, Mississippi. She
9 attended Copiah-Lincoln Community College and Delta State
10 University. She taught in high schools prior to joining the
11 University of Mississippi as a Counselor. While at the University
12 of Mississippi she earned a Masters Degree from Duke University
13 and her Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Dr. Rea served as a
14 Counselor, Program Director of the Christian Association, Dean of
15 Women, Professor of Higher Education and President of the American
16 Association of University Professors. As Professor of Education
17 she taught the first course on "Women" long before "Women's
18 Studies" was an academic subject. She was a staunch friend for
19 the early black students enrolled at Ole Miss; and

20 WHEREAS, her philosophy as a teacher: "Take the students
21 where you find them and lift their vision for more intellectual
22 inquiry." She retired from the University of Mississippi as
23 Professor Emeritus, having directed more doctoral students through
24 their Ph.D. programs than any other professor at that time. She
25 was recognized at the University of Mississippi with the Mortar
26 Board Award for "Outstanding Woman Faculty"; "Teacher of the Year,
27 School of Education"; and at her retirement a piece of sculpture

28 was placed in the School of Education in the name of Katharine
29 Rea; and

30 WHEREAS, during her years at Ole Miss, Dr. Rea was actively
31 involved with the League of Women Voters (served as State
32 President), American Association of University Women (served as
33 local and state President), member of the State Board of
34 Mississippi Association of Mental Health, The Mississippi Council
35 on Human Relations, The Mississippi Humanities Council and the
36 National Board of the YWCA. Her work with the Mississippi
37 Association of Women's Deans and Counselors is legendary. She was
38 the DEAN of the Deans; and

39 WHEREAS, having taught in Gulfport High School and having
40 served as its first Counselor, Dr. Rea loved the Gulf Coast. The
41 next day following her retirement from Ole Miss, she returned to
42 Gulfport and entered into its civic life with unabated enthusiasm.
43 The civic organizations which claimed her membership found a
44 leader. On the Gulf Coast she participated in book clubs, the
45 Rape Crisis Center, the Mental Health Center, Friends of the
46 Library, the Gulf Coast Symphony Guild, the Gulf Coast Symphony
47 Orchestra, The Gulf Coast Opera Salon and the Cleophan Club. She
48 had been the "official fundraiser" for worthy community projects,
49 and she worked tirelessly for the preservation of Jones Park on
50 the Gulf Coast; and

51 WHEREAS, Dr. Rea has been a leader in AAUW for more than half
52 a century. In her later years she has been a mentor to all. AAUW
53 has established an endowment fund for "Research and Projects" in
54 her name. The LWV recognized her efforts with membership with
55 their "Thelma Workman Award." The Gulf Coast Symphony Board of
56 Directors honored her with an "Honorary Lifelong Membership." The
57 Gulf Coast Opera Salon presented her with their "Carmen Award" for
58 outstanding contributions. The Mississippi Humanities Council
59 held her as an Advisory Member and honored her with its "Public
60 Humanities Award" for her support of public humanities programs

61 throughout the state. Dr. Rea will long be remembered as an
62 educator, as a social activist, but her record for "equality of
63 opportunity" in Mississippi's turbulent 60's cannot be matched by
64 any other woman in this state; and

65 WHEREAS, her survivors include two brothers, four nieces and
66 three nephews. She also leaves several grandnieces and
67 grandnephews to mourn her passing. Dr. Rea had many, many friends
68 on the Gulf Coast, throughout Mississippi and the nation. She was
69 a member of St. Marks Episcopal Church in Gulfport; and

70 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
71 most recognized humanitarian in the State of Mississippi:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
73 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
74 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of educational, civic and
75 charitable service of Dr. Katharine Rea, of Gulfport, Mississippi,
76 and express to her surviving family the sympathy of the
77 Legislature on her passing.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
79 the surviving family of Dr. Rea and be made available to the
80 Capitol Press Corps.