

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Burton, Dearing, Frazier, Gordon, Hewes, Morgan, Posey To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 504

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 MONSIGNOR JAMES JOSEPH HANNON OF OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, ON
3 THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF HIS
4 PRIESTHOOD.

5 WHEREAS, on June 3, 2005, Monsignor James J. Hannon of Ocean
6 Springs, Mississippi, will be celebrating 60 years as a Priest;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, James Joseph Hannon, a true son of Ireland, was born
9 January 13, 1920, in Headford County, Galway, Ireland, to Patrick
10 and Mary Hannon; and

11 WHEREAS, familiar with hard work growing up on an Irish farm,
12 the future Monsignor applied that ethic in acquiring his
13 education, first entering St. Janiath College, Tuam, Galway in
14 1933. Then, after graduation in 1939, he entered St. Patrick
15 College, Carlow, until he was ordained on June 3, 1945; and

16 WHEREAS, the newly ordained Father Hannon began his ministry
17 traveling across the Atlantic to his new country where his first
18 assignment was as the Associate Pastor at Nativity B.V.M. in
19 Biloxi, Mississippi. A year later, he was transferred to Our Lady
20 of Victories Parish in Pascagoula, Mississippi. During the period
21 from 1947 to 1950, he attended the Catholic University of America
22 in Washington, D.C., receiving his doctorate in Cannon Law and for
23 the next 12 years, he served in the Chancery Office for the
24 Diocese of Natchez-Jackson where he was appointed Defeasor
25 Vinculi. There he assumed the duties of Chancellor of the Diocese
26 under Bishop Richard Gerow and later, Bishop Joseph Brunini. He
27 also served as Diocesan Director of the Society of the Propagation

28 of the Faith, the Legion of Decency and Friends of the Catholic
29 University of America; and

30 WHEREAS, the Holy See named Father Hannon as a Papal
31 Chamberlain in 1954. He was named Domestic Prelate with the title
32 of Right Reverend Monsignor by Apostolic Brief in August 1957. In
33 1962, he was assigned as Pastor at Our Lady of the Gulf in Bay St.
34 Louis, Mississippi, until 1969. During the years between 1969 and
35 1980, Monsignor Hannon served as Pastor to the parishioners of Our
36 Lady of Victories in Pascagoula, Mississippi. In 1980, he was
37 appointed Pastor at St. Alphonsus in Ocean Springs where he
38 remained until his retirement on June 2, 1989; and

39 WHEREAS, during his retirement, Monsignor Hannon has devoted
40 much time to the Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Biloxi,
41 celebrating daily masses at the Villa Maria Retirement Home in
42 Ocean Springs, assisting with masses at St. Thomas in Long Beach,
43 Chaplain of the Knights of Columbus Council 5654, and serving as
44 President of the St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy Board of Directors;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, he still finds time for his woodworking hobby which
47 began while serving as Pastor of OLV. He built the St. James
48 Chapel at St. Alphonsus, as well as the altar and tabernacle and
49 the chairs and choir benches for the main altar. He began
50 Perpetual Adoration at St. Alphonsus. The Lord is My Help has
51 been the recipient of his administrative skills as well as his
52 expertise in cabinetry. Habitat for Humanity has also benefited
53 from the talents and skills of Monsignor Hannon's woodworking. He
54 is well known for distributing all the toys he makes to needy
55 children at Christmas; and

56 WHEREAS, Monsignor Hannon has been recognized for his
57 charitable and loving gifts to the community with numerous
58 rewards, including Outstanding Mississippi Knight of Columbus,
59 WLOX Person of the Week, and most recently, Mississippi Ageless

60 Hero. He has also been featured in local and national
61 publications; and

62 WHEREAS, Monsignor Hannon has faithfully served the church
63 and the people of Mississippi for most of his life. It is with
64 thanks and appreciation that we acknowledge his service of 60
65 years:

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 and congratulate Monsignor James Joseph
69 Hannon of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on the occasion of the 60th
70 Anniversary Celebration of his Priesthood, and express the best
71 wishes of the Legislature to him and his parishioners.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
73 Monsignor Hannon and be made available to the Sun Herald and
74 members of the Capitol Press Corps.