

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

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
66 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Monsignor
67 James Joseph Hannon of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, on the occasion
68 of the 60th Anniversary Celebration of his Priesthood, and express
69 the best wishes of the Senate to him and his parishioners.

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