

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 550

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HUMANITARIAN
2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. LEROY WADLINGTON, PASTOR OF THE SECOND
3 MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, answering the call of Pilgrim Missionary Baptist
5 Church in Indianapolis, Indiana, the family of Dr. Leroy
6 Wadlington will leave Oxford, Mississippi, at the end of January
7 2006 to lead their new 1600-member congregation; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Wadlington, who has served as the Pastor of
9 Second Missionary Baptist Church for 23 years, knows he's trading
10 a certain level of comfort to become a stranger in an unfamiliar
11 place; and

12 WHEREAS, Leroy Wadlington was born and reared in Lafayette
13 County, Oxford, Mississippi. He learned hard work from the fields
14 and instructions on succeeding from his father and mother who
15 sharecropped to sustain the family until other opportunities were
16 available; and

17 WHEREAS, he graduated from Central High School and was Senior
18 Class President of the last class before mandated integration. He
19 continued his education at Northwest Junior College, Senatobia,
20 Mississippi; left his family home to attend the University of
21 Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin; W. Herbert Brewster Theological
22 Institute, Memphis, Tennessee; Southern Baptist Seminary,
23 Nashville, Tennessee; and a Doctorate of Divinity from New
24 Millennium Baptist College, Charlotte, North Carolina; and

25 WHEREAS, Leroy Wadlington was employed with Chambers
26 Corporation after returning from Wisconsin and finally with the
27 United States District Court for the Northern District of

28 Mississippi. Serving as the first African-American in the Clerks
29 division of the United States District Court within the Fifth
30 Circuit. He worked for district judges William C. Keady, Orma R.
31 Smith and finally Neal B. Biggers, until retiring after 21 years
32 of service in June 1996; and

33 WHEREAS, he has been very active in the affairs of the
34 Oxford, Lafayette County and University community, always
35 attempting to improve life for all citizens. He has received
36 numerous awards for his efforts. The most meaningful, the
37 "Mississippi Now Award" and the "Thomas Sullivan Humanitarian
38 Award" by the University of Mississippi; and

39 WHEREAS, he served as Moderator of the Tallahatchie-Oxford
40 District Association, Oxford, Mississippi, for six years, until
41 becoming elected President of the New Educational State Convention
42 of Mississippi in July 2003. He is presently Pastor of the Second
43 Missionary Baptist Church of Oxford, Mississippi, and has served
44 that congregation for 23 years; and

45 WHEREAS, today, his social-justice concerns in Oxford have
46 included "underemployment", the discrepancy between how much one
47 earns and what it actually costs to live here, as well as
48 affordable housing and predatory lending practices. At Second
49 Baptist, the focus has been on chipping away at some of those
50 issues by "serving the whole of man," as Wadlington terms the
51 vision. That's meant everything from preparing "healthy meals"
52 for Wednesday evening fellowship dinners, to hosting seminars on
53 financial issues like wills-and-estates planning, to his
54 compassionate efforts at local hospitals where he did not expect
55 his donations to be reimbursed; and

56 WHEREAS, Pastor Wadlington serves on numerous local and state
57 boards and committees such as: Board of Directors of the
58 Institution for Racial Reconciliation, University, Mississippi;
59 local and state AMOS Organization; Boys & Girls Club, United Way;
60 state Domestic Violence Clergy Committee and many others; and

61 WHEREAS, he receives much support from his wife, Pearlie, and
62 his children, Hiram, Lemont, LeCresha and LaKesha; and

63 WHEREAS, it is with gratitude that we recognize the ministry
64 of this mentor who has done a great service to his church and a
65 great service to the people in his community and state:

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 the humanitarian contributions of Dr. Leroy
69 Wadlington, Pastor of the Second Missionary Baptist Church of
70 Oxford, Mississippi, and extend to him and his family the best
71 wishes of the Legislature in their new congregation.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
73 Dr. Wadlington and his family and be made available to the Capitol
74 Press Corps.