

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Burton, Thomas,
Gordon, Gollott, Chaney, Albritton, Browning,
Butler, Carmichael, Clarke, Davis, Doxey,
Frazier, Harvey, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Kirby, Little,
Mettetal, Nunnelee, Pickering, Robertson,
Ross, Walls, White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 554

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 FORMER SENATOR AND PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE WILLIAM ALEXANDER, AND
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Delta and the State of Mississippi
5 lost a great leader with the death of former State Senator and
6 President Pro Tempore, William Brooks Alexander, on Thursday,
7 January 19, 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, a native of Cleveland, Mississippi, Alexander served
9 in the Mississippi State Senate from 1960 to 1984. He was
10 Chairman of the Judiciary Committee for eight years and was
11 President Pro Tempore of the Senate from 1976 to 1984; and

12 WHEREAS, former Representative Charlie Capps, Jr., said he
13 remembers working alongside Alexander and that the Senator was a
14 champion for the Mississippi Delta; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Alexander had a strong conservative
16 philosophy. Among the important bills and resolutions that
17 Senator Alexander introduced were constitutional amendments to
18 permit the sheriff to succeed himself and to separate the
19 sheriff's office from that of the tax collector, a constitutional
20 amendment creating a lay State Board of Education, and prohibiting
21 the use of Medicaid funds for performing abortions; and

22 WHEREAS, during his eight years as President Pro Tempore, he
23 served 80 days as Acting Governor; and

24 WHEREAS, when Alexander was not dealing with legislation, he
25 was practicing law in Cleveland. He practiced law with his
26 father, W.B. Alexander, J.C. Feduccia, Robert Johnston and his
27 son, Brooks Alexander, from 1948 until 1997, when he retired from

28 active law practice. Many people were unaware that Alexander was
29 a candidate for the U.S. Congress in 1966; and

30 WHEREAS, Senator Alexander was born on December 23, 1921, in
31 Boyle, Mississippi, to W.B. Alexander and Vivien B. Alexander. He
32 attended Boyle schools for 12 years. He played left halfback and
33 called signals for the Boyle High School Football Team; and

34 WHEREAS, Alexander was an Eagle Scout in Troop #23 at
35 Cleveland and Troop #2 at Boyle. He also received the Badge of
36 Bronze Palm, which is a step above the Eagle Award; and

37 WHEREAS, he attended Mississippi College from 1940 to 1946 as
38 an enlisted man. His overseas duty was in New Guinea, Leyte
39 Island, Mindoro Island in the Philippines and Korea during the
40 war. Upon his discharge, he entered the University of Mississippi
41 Law School and graduated in June 1948. After graduation, he
42 joined the law firm of Alexander, Feduccia and Alexander; and

43 WHEREAS, he was a member of the First Baptist Church of
44 Cleveland since 1948. He was a teacher of 12-, 13- and 14-year
45 old boys for about 10 years, and he was a teacher of the men's
46 Bible Class for 30 years. He was a Deacon for 25 years, a
47 four-time Chairman and was a member of the Pastor Search Committee
48 in 1996. He was also Moderator of the Bolivar County Baptist
49 Association for one year; and

50 WHEREAS, Senator Alexander was past President of the
51 Mississippi Heart Association and Director of Delta Council. He
52 also served on the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce
53 Board of Directors, and he was a former member of the Mississippi
54 College Board of Trustees for 18 years. Alexander was past State
55 Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Director of the
56 Mississippi Economic Council. Alexander was a member of the
57 Cleveland Exchange Club for over 50 years, was recently honored
58 for all his years as an active member, and was also a past
59 president for the organization. While in the Senate, he was

60 selected as the Outstanding Legislator in 1975 by the Mississippi
61 Bar Association; and

62 WHEREAS, Senator Alexander was also a strong supporter of
63 Delta State University. He authorized a bill in the Legislature
64 that allowed Delta State College to be renamed Delta State
65 University; and

66 WHEREAS, after his retirement from law practice, Alexander
67 organized and became the first Chairman of Sav-A-Life of
68 Cleveland, which is an organization that encourages pregnant women
69 to avoid abortion, and teaches abstinence; and

70 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Belle McDonald
71 Alexander, of Cleveland; three sons: William Brooks Alexander III
72 and his wife, Cathy of Mobile, Alabama; John Marshall Alexander
73 and his wife, Melissa, of Oxford, Mississippi; and Jason McDonald
74 Alexander and his wife, Chakras, of Florence, Mississippi; a
75 daughter, Grace Alexander Bluerock and her husband, Scott, of
76 Dayton, Ohio; two sisters, Narcissa Richardson of Madison,
77 Mississippi, and Antionette Myers of Richmond, Virginia; a
78 brother, Richard Alexander of Tampa, Florida; and eleven
79 grandchildren; and

80 WHEREAS, Senator Alexander's public service was exemplified
81 by sound judgment and firmness and he set the highest standard in
82 all of his many roles, as a father, husband, lawyer, citizen,
83 statesman and leader in the Mississippi State Senate:

84 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
85 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
86 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of public service of
87 former Senator and President Pro Tempore William Alexander of
88 Cleveland, Mississippi, and express to his family the sympathy of
89 the Legislature on his passing.

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
91 the surviving family of Senator Alexander and be made available to
92 the Capitol Press Corps.