

By: Senator(s) Robertson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 561

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 LEGENDARY OLE MISS FOOTBALL COACH JOHN HOWARD VAUGHT, AND
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, legendary Ole Miss Football Coach John Howard Vaught
5 died on Friday, February 2, 2006, at his home in Oxford,
6 Mississippi. He was 96; and

7 WHEREAS, with the death of John Vaught, America and the State
8 of Mississippi have lost an epic figure of 20th Century college
9 football who brought fame to the University of Mississippi. Coach
10 Vaught's passing has affected all University of Mississippi
11 Alumni. Chancellor Robert Khayat stated that John Vaught is
12 "universally recognized as one of the great coaches in American
13 football history, who brought dignity, intellect, creativity and
14 vision to the game"; and

15 WHEREAS, the school's all-time winningest coach left an
16 indelible mark on players, coaches and athletic department
17 personnel alike during a 25-year coaching career that included
18 three National Championships, six Southeastern Conference
19 Championships and 18 bowl appearances; and

20 WHEREAS, Coach Vaught's Rebels Football Teams won six
21 Southeastern Conference Championships. The NCAA record book lists
22 three of Vaught's teams, 1959, 1960 and 1962, as having won at
23 least a share of the National Championship. He was named SEC
24 Coach of the Year six times; and

25 WHEREAS, during Vaught's tenure, Ole Miss achieved the SEC's
26 best record. Alabama, coached by Bear Bryant for much of that

27 period, was second, Tennessee third and LSU fourth. Vaught's
28 teams won 190 games, lost 61 and tied 12; and

29 WHEREAS, Coach Vaught's record against some of the most
30 legendary coaches in history is remarkable. Only Bryant owned a
31 winning record against Vaught, barely: seven victories, six
32 defeats and one tie. Vaught was 6-0 against Arkansas' Frank
33 Broyles, 6-2-1 against LSU's Charles McClendon, 3-2 against
34 Georgia's Vince Dooley and 4-3-1 against LSU's Paul Dietzel; and

35 WHEREAS, born on May 6, 1909, in Olney, Texas, Vaught played
36 Guard for Texas Christian University from 1930-1932. After
37 leading TCU to a Southwest Conference Championship his Senior year
38 and becoming the school's first All-American, he began his
39 coaching career. Following coaching stops in the high school
40 ranks and at the University of North Carolina, he entered the Navy
41 during World War II, eventually rising to the rank of Lieutenant
42 Commander. After his stint in the war, he took a line-coaching
43 position at Ole Miss under Red Drew, then took the reins in 1947
44 when Drew left for Alabama; and

45 WHEREAS, Archie Manning, one of Vaught's most celebrated
46 players and one of his 18 Ole Miss All-Americans, said "Coach just
47 flat-out hated to lose"; and

48 WHEREAS, his final record with Ole Miss was a staggering
49 190-61-12 record, good enough to be among the top 25 winningest
50 coaches in NCAA Division I history. Vaught was inducted into the
51 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1976, the National Football
52 Foundation College Hall of Fame in 1979, the Ole Miss Sports Hall
53 of Fame in 1987 and was voted unanimously as the Ole Miss Coach of
54 the Century in 1993; and

55 WHEREAS, after nearly 70 years of being known as Hemingway
56 Stadium, after Judge William Hemingway, the coaching staple in Ole
57 Miss lore earned yet another recognition. On October 16, 1982,
58 Vaught saw his name added to the stadium, which is called
59 Vaught-Hemingway Stadium; and

60 WHEREAS, even during his retirement, he remained an icon to
61 college football fans, residents of Oxford and of Mississippi. He
62 was preceded in death by his wife, Johnsie, and his son, John, Jr.
63 Survivors include a sister, Nedra Strickland of Glendale, Arizona;
64 a daughter-in-law, Bonnie L. Vaught of Oxford; and a step
65 granddaughter, Susan Vaught of Tennessee; and

66 WHEREAS, we have lost a giant in Mississippi sports history:

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
68 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
69 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of football excellence of
70 legendary Ole Miss Football Coach John Howard Vaught, and express
71 to his surviving family the sympathy of the Legislature on his
72 passing.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
74 the surviving family of Coach Vaught and to Chancellor Robert
75 Khayat representing his former players and fans, and be made
76 available to the Capitol Press Corps.