

By: Senator(s) Gordon, Tollison, Albritton, Browning, Bryan, Burton, Butler, Clarke, Dearing, Frazier, Gollott, Harden, Hewes, Jackson (15th), Jackson (11th), Kirby, Little, Moffatt, Nunnelee, Posey, Simmons, Thomas, White, Wilemon, Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 600

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND DISTINGUISHED
2 JUDICIAL CAREER OF FORMER MISSISSIPPI CHIEF JUSTICE ARMIS EUGENE
3 HAWKINS AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, former Mississippi Supreme Court Chief Justice Armis
5 Eugene Hawkins, the man credited with creating the Mississippi
6 Court of Appeals, passed away on February 28, 2006; and

7 WHEREAS, he is remembered by friends and colleagues as a
8 legal scholar and one of the court's most prolific writers, who
9 guided the court through several years of tremendous reform of the
10 judicial system; and

11 WHEREAS, Mississippi Justice Armis Eugene Hawkins, the son of
12 Charles Mayfield Hawkins and Lela Hill Hawkins, was born in
13 Natchez on Armistice Day, 1920. He graduated from Houston High
14 School in Houston, Mississippi, in 1938, attended Wood Junior
15 College from 1938 to 1939, the University of Mississippi
16 undergraduate school from 1940 to 1941, and the University of
17 Mississippi School of Law from 1941 to 1942. In June of 1942,
18 Armis Hawkins volunteered for the United States Marine Corps as a
19 Private and was discharged in 1946 as a First Lieutenant. He
20 graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law in
21 1947, whereupon he practiced law in Houston, Mississippi, until
22 1981; and

23 WHEREAS, Armis Hawkins was elected by the people of the Third
24 Circuit Court District to serve two terms as District Attorney
25 (1952-1959). In 1959 he was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor
26 of Mississippi; in 1960 he was the Campaign Manager for John F.
27 Kennedy for President. Judge Armis Hawkins was elected in

28 November of 1980 to the position of Supreme Court Justice and was
29 elevated to the highest judicial post in Mississippi, serving as
30 Chief Justice from 1993 until his retirement in 1995. He was a
31 member of the American Bar Association; Mississippi Trial Lawyers
32 Association; Association of Trial Lawyers of America; a charter
33 member of the Houston Jaycees and Chickasaw Development
34 Foundation; a member of Houston First Baptist Church; he was a
35 32nd Degree Mason; Order of the Eastern Star; American Legion;
36 Veteran of Foreign Wars; and a Century Member, Boy Scouts of
37 America; and

38 WHEREAS, during his tenure as Chief Justice, he presided over
39 improvements including the creation of an Appellate Court, the
40 Administrative Office of Courts, and the Judicial Advisory Study
41 Committee, as well as the enactment of provisions for law clerks
42 and secretaries for trial judges and the nonpartisan election of
43 judges. Judge Hawkins also raised his voice against lawyers who
44 advertised, and he argued against the large amounts of money
45 judges raised to get elected and called for spending caps for
46 judges; and

47 WHEREAS, survivors include: his wife of 57 years, Pat Burrow
48 Hawkins of Houston; two daughters, Janice Hawkins Hicks and
49 husband Phil of Memphis, Tennessee, and Dr. Jean Anne Rogers and
50 husband, the Honorable Mike Rogers of Murfreesboro, Tennessee;
51 son, Jim Hawkins of New Orleans, Louisiana; grandson, Geoffrey
52 Brent Strewsbury of Memphis, Tennessee; three granddaughters, Jan
53 Margaret Rogers, Anne Katherine Rogers and Addison Rogers of
54 Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and

55 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
56 man who made his mark on the Mississippi judiciary and who has
57 served his country, his state and the legal profession so nobly
58 and so well:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
60 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That

61 we do hereby commend the life and distinguished judicial career of
62 former Mississippi Chief Justice Armis Eugene Hawkins, and express
63 to his surviving family the sympathy of the Legislature and our
64 thanks for his dedication and service to the state and its
65 citizens.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
67 the surviving family of Justice Hawkins and be transmitted to the
68 Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, and be made
69 available to the Capitol Press Corps.
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