

By: Senator(s) Ross

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 604

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND WORK OF JUDGE  
2 JOHN R. COUNTISS III.

3 WHEREAS, former United States Magistrate Judge John R.  
4 Countiss III died February 22, 2006, at the age of 78; and

5 WHEREAS, Judge Countiss was born on August 26, 1927, to John  
6 R. Countiss, Jr., and Lyneille Butler Countiss, and was a  
7 life-long resident of Jackson and a member of St. Andrew's  
8 Episcopal Cathedral; and

9 WHEREAS, after graduating from Central High School in the  
10 Class of 1945, he joined the United States Navy in 1946; and

11 WHEREAS, a 1950 graduate of Millsaps College, Countiss earned  
12 his law degree from the then-Jackson School of Law, graduating Cum  
13 Laude in 1956; he was admitted to The Mississippi Bar the same  
14 year, and served as an instructor at the law school from  
15 1956-1957; and

16 WHEREAS, before his appointment to the bench as a  
17 "Commissioner," the judicial precursor to federal magistrate, he  
18 practiced law for nine years, first with the law firm of Lee,  
19 Moore and Countiss and then with the Nichols, Gore and Countiss  
20 firm; and

21 WHEREAS, he married Matelyn "Mimi" Floyd Hines on December 6,  
22 1962; and

23 WHEREAS, he was the longest serving United States Magistrate,  
24 having been first designated a United States Commissioner for the  
25 Southern District of Mississippi in 1963, then sworn in as a  
26 part-time Magistrate Judge in 1974, and appointed full-time

27 Magistrate Judge in 1976, in which capacity he continued until his  
28 retirement on September 30, 1993; and

29 WHEREAS, Judge Countiss reentered private practice following  
30 his retirement from the bench with the law firm of Upshaw,  
31 Williams, Biggers, Beckham and Riddick; and

32 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mimi,  
33 and their son, Sean Butler Countiss; and is survived by his  
34 daughter, Lyneille Countiss Williams; son-in-law, George Williams,  
35 Jr.; his son, John R. Countiss IV; daughter-in-law, Amy Burns  
36 Countiss; and six grandchildren: Kaleigh Ann Countiss, Sean  
37 Matelyn Williams, George Williams III, John R. Countiss V, Rivers  
38 Matelyn Countiss and Henry Harrison Countiss; and

39 WHEREAS, Judge Countiss was known, loved and respected for  
40 his humor and scholarly appreciation of the law; and

41 WHEREAS, his passing leaves a void for his family and many,  
42 many friends and colleagues; and

43 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this  
44 outstanding jurist who contributed so much to his profession and  
45 community:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
47 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
48 we do hereby commend the life and service of Judge John R.  
49 Countiss III, of Jackson, Mississippi, and express to his family  
50 the sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
52 Judge Countiss' family and be made available to the Capitol Press  
53 Corps.