

By: Senator(s) Hyde-Smith, Chaney, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE EXTRAORDINARY ARTWORK, SCULPTURE
2 AND STATUES CREATED BY BROOKHAVEN'S DR. J. KIM SESSUMS.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. J. Kim Sessums is a respected physician in
4 Brookhaven, Mississippi, but he has become well-known and highly
5 regarded for his avocation, which is artwork and sculpture; and

6 WHEREAS, artwork by Dr. Sessums ranges from graphite pencil
7 drawings to bronze busts and statues to monument-size pieces, such
8 as the African-American Monument in the Vicksburg National
9 Military Park which was recently dedicated; and

10 WHEREAS, after getting his medical degree from the University
11 of Mississippi, Sessums came to Brookhaven in 1988. Regarding his
12 artistic and medical abilities, Sessums said he did not want to be
13 found "lazy" by not using the gifts that God has given him; and

14 WHEREAS, after developing a reputation for quality graphite
15 drawings and pastels, the Brookhaven artist is now making a name
16 for himself in the world of sculpture. Sessums said he strives to
17 go beyond an object's or person's physical features to capture the
18 emotion and essence of the subject. To do that, he relies on his
19 research; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Sessums said he still does some commission work,
21 but he is selective about what projects he takes on. He said a
22 graphite pencil drawing takes about 30 to 40 hours to complete.
23 While drawing and painting since 1976, Sessums has been doing
24 sculptures since 1995; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Sessums made three bronze busts early in his
26 career. They were of famed artist Andrew Wyeth, Mississippi
27 author Eudora Welty and Evangelist the Reverend Billy Graham.

28 These pieces wound up in the private collections of those
29 individuals. Today, Sessums has completed 25 sculptures of
30 various subjects; and

31 WHEREAS, Sessums took on his largest project a few years ago
32 when he was selected to design a larger-than-life size monument
33 commemorating the service of the 1st and 3rd Mississippi Infantry
34 Regiments, African descent and all Mississippians of African
35 descent who participated in the Vicksburg campaign, recognizing
36 black soldiers' contributions during the Civil War. In February
37 2004, it was unveiled at the Vicksburg National Military Park; and

38 WHEREAS, although his reputation as an artist continues to
39 grow, Dr. Sessums said he will maintain his medical practice; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Sessums and his wife, Kristy, have been married
41 for 25 years. They have four children: Jake, 23; daughter Joey,
42 21; Stewart, 18; and Price, 17. The Sessums family attends Faith
43 Presbyterian Church, where Kim is an Elder; and

44 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the unique
45 accomplishments of this physician whose passion for art and
46 sculpture has brought honor to his community and to the State of
47 Mississippi:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the extraordinary artwork,
50 sculpture and statues created by Brookhaven, Mississippi's Dr. J.
51 Kim Sessums, and extend to him and his family the best wishes of
52 the Senate for success in his future projects.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
54 Dr. Sessums and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.