

By: Senator(s) Gordon,
 Little, Gollott, Jordan,
 Chaney, Simmons, Horhn,
 Hyde-Smith, Frazier, Kirby,
 King, Browning, Moffatt,
 Thames, Robertson,
 Pickering, Michel, Mettetal,
 Doxey, Dearing, Posey,
 Morgan, Flowers, Thomas,
 Jackson (11th), Turner,
 Carmichael, Tollison,
 Nunnelee, Harden, Wilemon,
 White, Williamson, Hewes,
 Brown, Burton, Davis,
 Albritton, Butler, Dawkins, Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Lee
 (35th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 506

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC
 2 SERVICE OF SENATOR ROBERT G. "BUNKY" HUGGINS, AND EXPRESSING THE
 3 SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the State of Mississippi lost a
 5 wonderful friend, colleague, gentleman and enlightened lawmaker
 6 with the death of State Senator Robert G. "Bunky" Huggins on
 7 Wednesday, May 10, 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Huggins began his public service when he was
 9 elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1972. He
 10 was re-elected to the House of Representative twice and then
 11 elected to the Mississippi State Senate in 1984, where he served
 12 with honor and distinction until his passing. An influential
 13 member of many committees throughout his legislative career, he
 14 was the current Chairman of the Senate Corrections Committee and
 15 the Chairman of the Legislative Performance, Evaluation and
 16 Expenditure Review (PEER) Committee. His previous chairmanships
 17 included the Senate Corrections, Appropriations and Public Health
 18 and Welfare Committees, and he was one of the most respected and
 19 beloved members of the Legislature; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Huggins leaves a legacy as a lawmaker who
 21 led the fight to decentralize the Mississippi prison system and
 22 break the state's "Parchman Farm" image as a backward state in
 23 corrections policy. He is remembered by Senate colleagues as a
 24 tough, fair and enlightened lawmaker who fought tooth-and-nail to
 25 get the Delta's fair share, but with a statewide perspective which

26 made him a perfect fit for his district and for the Senate as a
27 whole; and

28 WHEREAS, as a perennial Senate leader, Senator Huggins
29 exerted a powerful influence not only over the state prison system
30 for which he will be first remembered, but over sweeping public
31 health and welfare improvements that were of great value to the
32 impoverished Delta region he loved; and

33 WHEREAS, born in rural Carroll County in 1936, Senator
34 Huggins lived most of his life in Greenwood, Mississippi. A
35 graduate of Greenwood High School, he attended college at the
36 University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi College, and
37 was a law student at the Jackson School of Law. He married the
38 former Gerry Robinette in 1959. He was President of Metalcraft,
39 Inc., in Greenwood, Mississippi, and raised cattle in Carroll
40 County on the farm where he was born. His memberships included
41 the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Cattlemen's Association and
42 Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He was an avid sportsman and was fond of
43 his hunting dogs; and

44 WHEREAS, Bunky was a source of tireless energy, often taking
45 on many difficult concerns and situations. He dismissed no issue
46 in which he truly believed. His thoughts were always channeled
47 toward what was best for our state; and

48 WHEREAS, Bunky spent his life in service to his neighbors.
49 He was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church where he
50 served as chairman of several committees; and

51 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Gerry, and daughter,
52 Deleslyn Robertson, and her children, Derrick and Rachel
53 Robertson, all of Greenwood, Mississippi; daughter, Stephanie
54 Billingsley, and her husband, Bill and her children, Avery and
55 Michael Tucker, all of Madison, Mississippi; sisters, Elizabeth
56 Mitchell of Greenwood, Mississippi, and Patricia Tolar of Kenner,
57 Louisiana; nieces, Gwyn Helton of Kenner, Louisiana, and Elizabeth
58 Ann Rice and Bonnie Kay McCool, both of Greenwood, Mississippi;

59 nephew, Bobby French of Spring, Texas, and numerous cousins,
60 friends and relatives; and

61 WHEREAS, "Bunky Huggins' long service is marked by his
62 commitment to success and recognized leadership," Governor Barbour
63 said. "He excelled in a variety of major responsibilities and
64 served the Senate, his constituents and the state exceptionally
65 well"; and

66 WHEREAS, Senator Huggins' public service was exemplified by
67 sound judgment and fairness, and he set the highest standard in
68 all of his many roles, as a father, husband, grandfather,
69 businessman, citizen statesman and leader in the Mississippi Delta
70 and in the Mississippi Senate and as a true friend:

71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
72 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
73 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of public service of
74 Senator Robert G. "Bunky" Huggins of Greenwood, Mississippi, and
75 express to his family the sympathy of the Legislature on his
76 passing and our thanks for sharing Bunky with us and with the
77 State of Mississippi.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
79 the surviving family of Senator Bunky Huggins and be made
80 available to the Capitol Press Corps.