

By: Senator(s) Lee (47th),  
Albritton, Browning, Dawkins,  
Dearing, Frazier, Gordon, Hyde-  
Smith, Jackson (11th), King, Lee  
(35th), Little, Pickering,  
Thames, Walls, White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 508

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC  
2 SERVICE OF FORMER SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE MARGARET T. "WOOTSIE"  
3 TATE OF PICAYUNE, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE  
4 LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the State of Mississippi lost a  
6 friend and colleague with the death of former Senator and  
7 Representative Margaret Townsend "Wootsie" Tate of Picayune,  
8 Mississippi, on Friday, June 9, 2006; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Tate served as a Representative from  
10 1984-1988. She was elected to District 47 of the State Senate in  
11 1988 and served until 1992; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Tate was born on January 10, 1934, and  
13 graduated from Picayune Memorial High School and Pearl River  
14 Junior College. She was very active in the business of her  
15 community, as an insurance agent, real estate agent, homebuilder,  
16 contractor, President of the Pearl River County Homebuilders  
17 Association, member of the Pearl River County Chamber of Commerce  
18 and professional insurance agents and realtors; and

19 WHEREAS, "Wootsie" fought against a bill to authorize a  
20 landfill to be placed in Hancock County and authored a mandatory  
21 seat belt bill that was passed by the Senate. However, perhaps  
22 her greatest contribution in the Legislature was serving as  
23 Chairman of the Senate Insurance Committee. She was known as the  
24 "windpool" Senator. Her insurance bills were designed to help  
25 people living on the coast from destructive hurricane damage; and

26 WHEREAS, Wootsie's straight-forward behavior also made quite  
27 an impression on her legislative colleagues. You never had to

28 question what her stand on an issue was, and she was known for her  
29 stubbornness; and

30 WHEREAS, a favorite antedote about Senator Tate involved the  
31 Senate bathroom on the third floor of the Capitol where, at the  
32 time, there weren't any women restrooms. The women would have to  
33 walk all the way down to the ground floor to use the restroom, but  
34 the men had their own restroom off of the Senate Chamber. When  
35 Wootsie had to use the restroom, she would always get the Senate  
36 Sergeant-At-Arms to stand outside of the men's restroom and keep  
37 any men from coming inside instead of walking down to the bottom  
38 floor. The Sergeant-At-Arms even turned the Governor away from  
39 the bathroom once. Finally, Wootsie influenced the Senate to  
40 build a female restroom off of the Senate Chamber; and

41 WHEREAS, Wootsie was the driving force behind the Picayune  
42 Senior Center, securing a grant for the land and building and  
43 serving as its President. The City of Picayune wasted no time in  
44 naming this building in memory of a state lawmaker. The Senior  
45 Center in Picayune is now named the "Wootsie and Billy Tate  
46 Building", after former State Legislator Margaret "Wootsie" Tate  
47 and her husband; and

48 WHEREAS, Senator "Wootsie" Tate was a determined lady with a  
49 mission. She did a lot of good things for her district. She was  
50 a strong lady and a good, strong public servant whose service was  
51 exemplified by sound judgment:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
53 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
54 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of community service of  
55 former Senator and Representative Margaret Townsend "Wootsie" Tate  
56 of Picayune, Mississippi, and express to her husband, William, and  
57 surviving family the sympathy of the Legislature on her passing.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
59 the surviving family of former Senator Tate and be made available  
60 to the Capitol Press Corps.