

By: Senator(s) Chaney, White,  
King, Carmichael, Davis, Clarke,  
Jackson (15th), Brown, Kirby,  
Pickering, Burton, Flowers,  
Gordon, Michel, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 514

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DEDICATED PUBLIC  
2 SERVICE OF GORDON A. COTTON, LONGTIME CURATOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE  
3 OLD COURTHOUSE MUSEUM IN VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, ON THE OCCASION  
4 OF HIS RETIREMENT.

5 WHEREAS, Gordon A. Cotton, a native of Yokena, Warren County,  
6 Mississippi, grew up in the finest traditions of the South,  
7 attending public schools, then colleges for his bachelor's and  
8 master's degrees, and became a history teacher so that the stories  
9 of the American people could be known, respected, and preserved,  
10 and serve an instructive purpose to us all; and

11 WHEREAS, Gordon A. Cotton later became a journalist, known  
12 widely for his portraits and narratives about both famous  
13 Mississippians and Mississippians who should be famous; and

14 WHEREAS, thirty years ago, Gordon A. Cotton accepted and has  
15 served faithfully in his destined career as Curator and Director  
16 of the Old Courthouse Museum - Eva W. Davis Memorial in Vicksburg,  
17 Mississippi; and

18 WHEREAS, the museum is housed in the former Warren County  
19 Courthouse, left vacant after county business operations were  
20 moved across Cherry Street in the early 1940s. The building dates  
21 to 1860 and was the site of the city's formal surrender to Union  
22 forces on July 4, 1863. In addition to legal, land and other  
23 records available to researchers, collections housed in the museum  
24 include artifacts from pre-Columbian Mississippi, up to and  
25 through the pioneer days. One room is dedicated to Vicksburg's  
26 history of the War Between The States, and a room off the restored  
27 courtroom on the second floor is dedicated to Jefferson Davis, a

28 resident of Warren County when he was elected Confederate  
29 President; and

30 WHEREAS, the Old Courthouse Museum - Eva W. Davis Memorial,  
31 designated as a National Landmark, and the Vicksburg National  
32 Military Park are the area's top tourist attractions; and

33 WHEREAS, Gordon A. Cotton has continued to write, both a  
34 weekly newspaper column centered on Warren County and Mississippi  
35 History; and numerous books on a variety of topics; and

36 WHEREAS, in each and every writing, Gordon A. Cotton has  
37 shown a respect and admiration for the people who, as individuals,  
38 helped their neighbors, their state and their nation; and

39 WHEREAS, Gordon A. Cotton has been an exceptional Ambassador  
40 for Warren County and Mississippi, often quoted and appearing in  
41 national publications and films related to Mississippi History;  
42 and

43 WHEREAS, Gordon A. Cotton has been previously honored and  
44 recognized by a multitude of organizations, including the  
45 Mississippi Historical Society, the Mississippi Museums  
46 Association and the Mississippi Department of Archives and  
47 History; and

48 WHEREAS, Gordon A. Cotton is widely known as a person of good  
49 humor and sincerity, as a skilled craftsman and dedicated worker,  
50 as a Deacon in his church and as a compassionate and faithful  
51 friend to hundreds of people:

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 recognize and applaud the effective public service  
55 Gordon A. Cotton has provided through the years in both his  
56 exemplary citizenship and scholarly work in the preservation and  
57 in the presentation of the history of the people of Mississippi,  
58 and extend to him and his family the best wishes of the  
59 Legislature on the occasion of his retirement after 30 years as

60 Curator and Director of the Old Courthouse Museum - Eva W. Davis  
61 Memorial in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That this resolution be presented to  
63 Gordon A. Cotton and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.