

By: Senator(s) Chaney

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 517

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND INDOMITABLE
2 SPIRIT OF RALPH MCDONALD, FORMER BUDGET DIRECTOR FOR THE STATE
3 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

4 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi lost a dedicated public
5 servant and an expert in education finance with the death of Ralph
6 Alan McDonald of Madison, Mississippi, on Monday, August 21, 2006;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Ralph is best remembered in the Legislature as an
9 expert in education finance legislation. He served as Budget
10 Director at the State Department of Education from 1985 to 2002,
11 and in this role he acted as a resource to the Education and
12 Appropriations Committees of both houses of the Legislature on
13 such issues as teacher salaries and funding of the revised
14 adequate education formula during critical debates of education
15 funding legislation; and

16 WHEREAS, Ralph held a Bachelor's Degree in Business from
17 Mississippi State University. After his dedicated service with
18 the State Department of Education, Ralph served as the Director of
19 Outreach Services for the Information Systems Division at the
20 Mississippi Department of Transportation until his retirement; and

21 WHEREAS, Ralph was an incredibly strong spirited man, who
22 valiantly fought to remain here with his family throughout his
23 illness. Anyone who ever met Ralph loved him. His strong spirit
24 and goofy good humor lightened even the darkest periods of his
25 illness. Even to the last, Ralph held strong to his belief and
26 trust in the Lord and his church; and

27 WHEREAS, at his Thanksgiving Celebration of Life on January
28 31, 2002, he recognized his beloved wife, Mary, as the light of
29 his life and his children, Maureen and Daniel, as the primary
30 sources of his strength. Ralph and Mary had an almost unworldly
31 bond of love that carried them through the incredible trial caused
32 by his illnesses. They instilled this love, along with their
33 faith, in their children; and

34 WHEREAS, survivors include his wife of 24 years, Mary; his
35 children, Maureen, 20, and Daniel, 17; his mother, Mary Coburn
36 McDonald; his brother, Robert P. McDonald (Lisa); his sister, Pat
37 Delaughter; his brothers-in-law, Billy McCarthy (Pat) and Jay
38 McCarthy; his sister-in-law, Lynn (Avery); and numerous nieces and
39 nephews; and

40 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of a
41 respected public servant who has left a legacy of service and
42 dedication to public education to the citizens of the State of
43 Mississippi:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
45 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
46 we do hereby commend the life and indomitable spirit of Ralph Alan
47 McDonald of Madison, Mississippi, former Budget Director for the
48 State Department of Education, and express to his surviving family
49 the sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
51 the surviving family of Ralph Alan McDonald, be forwarded to the
52 State Board of Education and be made available to the Capitol
53 Press Corps.