

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Dawkins

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 520

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED
2 COMMUNITY SERVICE OF DR. HALIL OZERDEN OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Halil Ozerden of Gulfport, Mississippi, an
4 immigrant from Turkey, Professor at the University of Southern
5 Mississippi, former member of the State Board of Psychology and an
6 active member of the Gulfport Rotary Club passed away on Friday,
7 August 18, 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, Halil Ozerden left Adana, Turkey, with just \$100.00,
9 but he earned a Ph.D. and lived with gusto with his family for
10 nearly 40 years in Gulfport, Mississippi; and

11 WHEREAS, he came from a modest background and rose to
12 success. He embodied the American dream. "He always dreamed of
13 coming to the United States and becoming an American citizen," his
14 son Sul Ozerden said. "He worked very hard to achieve that dream.
15 I learned more about being an American from him than I have from
16 anybody else"; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Ozerden began teaching psychology at the
18 University of Southern Mississippi in 1970 and became a
19 naturalized U.S. citizen in 1971. In 1992, Governor Kirk Fordice
20 appointed him to the State Board of Psychology; and

21 WHEREAS, a lover of sports, Dr. Ozerden holds a record for
22 scoring six goals in one soccer game as a graduate student at USM.
23 He also competed in marathons and loved sailing; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Ozerden attended St. Peter's By-The-Sea
25 Episcopal Church but he also adhered closely to Islam; and

26 WHEREAS, Halil Ozerden and his wife of 40 years, Candace,
27 instilled confidence in both of their children. Sul attended

28 Georgetown University, spent six years in the Navy, and became a
29 successful attorney. The couple's daughter, Emile Ozerden
30 Gottschlich, works in advertising at *The Sun Herald*; and

31 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
32 Mississippian who was a model citizen and will be missed by his
33 adopted community and state:

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
35 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
36 we do hereby commend the life and dedicated community service of
37 Dr. Halil Ozerden of Gulfport, Mississippi, and extend to his
38 surviving family the sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
40 the surviving family of Dr. Ozerden and be made available to the
41 Capitol Press Corps.