

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE
2 LEGISLATURE ON THE DEATH OF GERALD R. FORD, THE 38TH PRESIDENT OF
3 THE UNITED STATES.

4 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that the State of Mississippi
5 received notice of the death of Gerald R. Ford, the 38th President
6 of the United States, on December 26, 2006; and

7 WHEREAS, President Ford was a great man who devoted the best
8 years of his life to serving the United States of America. He was
9 also a true gentleman who reflected the best in America's
10 character. Before the world knew his name, he served with
11 distinction in the United States Navy and the United States House
12 of Representatives. As a Congressman from Michigan, and then as
13 Vice President, he commanded the respect and earned the goodwill
14 of all who had the privilege of knowing him. On August 9, 1974,
15 he stepped into the presidency without having ever sought the
16 office; and

17 WHEREAS, despite the fact that President Gerald Ford didn't
18 ask for the task of being the leader of the free world, the
19 uncommon tasks embodied in holding the presidency fell to this
20 common, decent man from the Midwest; and

21 WHEREAS, President Ford took office during the Watergate
22 scandal and led the country through the end of the Vietnam War, an
23 inflationary recession and mounting energy shortages. Ford
24 continued and built upon the Nixon-era foreign policies of detente
25 and shuttle diplomacy, policies that paved the way for the erosion
26 and eventual collapse of the Soviet Union a decade later; and

27 WHEREAS, during his time of office, the American people came
28 to know President Ford as a man of complete integrity, who led our
29 country with common sense and kind instincts. Americans will
30 always admire Gerald Ford's unflinching performance of duty, the
31 honorable conduct of his administration, and the great rectitude
32 of the man himself; and

33 WHEREAS, we mourn the loss of such a leader, and our 38th
34 President will always have a special place in our Nation's memory;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, President Ford's common touch, his simple Midwestern
37 values and his lifelong record of personal integrity and devotion
38 to his country leave Americans mourning the passing of this
39 reliable statesman; and

40 WHEREAS, President Ford lived 93 years, and his life was a
41 blessing to America and to the State of Mississippi. Now this
42 fine man will be taken to his rest by a family that will love him
43 always and by a Nation that will be grateful to him forever:

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 express the public sorrow of the Legislature on the
47 death of Gerald R. Ford, the 38th President of the United States,
48 and express to his surviving family our sympathy on his passing.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
50 the surviving family of President Gerald Ford, the President of
51 the United States, George W. Bush, and to members of Mississippi's
52 congressional delegation, and be made available to members of the
53 Capitol Press Corps.