

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Hewes

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 546

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND CIVIC
2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF RESPECTED BILOXI BUSINESSMAN EMILE L. "JUNIE"
3 DESPORTE III.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Emile L. "Junie" Desporte III, a guiding force
5 in one of the most prominent seafood families in Biloxi,
6 Mississippi, passed away Wednesday, January 3, 2007, at the age of
7 59; and

8 WHEREAS, Junie will be remembered by many as a savvy
9 businessman who helped transform a small family retail seafood
10 outlet into a multifaceted operation that proudly served
11 generations of Biloxians and the area's many restaurants and
12 visitors; and

13 WHEREAS, his knowledge of the industry and his confidence in
14 its expansion into legalized gaming helped Desporte & Sons Seafood
15 become a leading factor in the city's reestablishment as a major
16 tourism destination; and

17 WHEREAS, to his family, Junie will forever be remembered as a
18 pillar of strength and happiness. His love for life was a
19 constant source of encouragement and joy to the family he kept so
20 close to him. Never was his commitment to family more than in his
21 last few years as he courageously battled to extend his life
22 against a debilitating disease. His concern, as always, was not
23 for himself, but for his family; and

24 WHEREAS, Junie was born June 3, 1947. He grew up in Biloxi
25 and had considerable ability in various sports. His future,
26 however, was in the family seafood business, which has been a
27 vital part of Biloxi's history for more than 100 years; and

28 WHEREAS, family and business always came first, followed
29 closely by his dedication to the Catholic Church, Our Lady of
30 Fatima, his home parish. Of course, enjoying life was a major
31 commitment, and chief among Junie's hobbies was the game of golf,
32 which he pursued with passion; and

33 WHEREAS, as a businessman, he was playful with customers, but
34 he always made certain they were happy with the service and
35 product they received; and

36 WHEREAS, his civic contributions were many. He was a
37 businessman whose heart was often as big as his ever-present
38 cigar. He supported hundreds, if not thousands, of fund-raisers
39 through his career and always had an extra filet or pile of shrimp
40 for the needy; and

41 WHEREAS, Junie's life, though all too brief, was a full one.
42 His positive spirit touched everyone with whom he came into
43 contact. His legacy as a son, father, brother, grandson and
44 friend will be carried for generations; and

45 WHEREAS, he is survived by his parents, Emile L. Desporte,
46 Jr., and Shirley Desporte; wife of 30 years, Angie Desporte; his
47 daughter, Angel Harrelson (husband Stacy and daughter Colby); his
48 son, Sean Desporte (wife Emily); sister Julie Kessen (husband
49 Andrew and son Dylan); brother Artie Desporte (wife Christine);
50 and

51 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
52 icon of the Biloxi seafood business who was a model citizen to all
53 Mississippians:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
56 we do hereby commend the life and civic and charitable
57 contributions of respected Biloxi businessman, Emile L. "Junie"
58 Desporte III, and extend the sympathy of the Legislature to his
59 surviving family on his passing.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
61 the surviving family of Junie Desporte and be made available to
62 *The Sun Herald* and the members of the Capitol Press Corps.