

By: Senator(s) Fillingane

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 558

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE
2 SELFLESS SERVICE AND DEDICATED CAREER OF ROBERT R. LATHAM, JR.,
3 UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI
4 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY.

5 WHEREAS, after more than 25 years of public service, as of
6 July 1, 2006, Robert R. Latham, Jr., Executive Director of the
7 Mississippi Emergency Management Agency and a native of Senatobia,
8 Mississippi, ended his career in public service to the citizens of
9 Mississippi upon his retirement; and

10 WHEREAS, having served as MEMA's Executive Director for six
11 years, he lead the state's response and recovery efforts to more
12 than 11 Presidential Disaster Declarations, 7 United States Small
13 Business Administration Disaster Declarations and 19 Governor
14 Declared State of Emergencies; including our nation's worst
15 natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina, which struck the state on
16 August 29, 2005; and

17 WHEREAS, during his tenure at MEMA, Robert Latham had the
18 vision to ensure federal funding to help build a state-of-the-art
19 emergency operations center and to purchase a mobile operations
20 unit, to increase the state's county emergency management programs
21 from 46 to all 82 counties to ensure that all local governments in
22 the state are prepared to respond and recover from future
23 disasters; and

24 WHEREAS, before joining the agency in February 2000, Robert
25 also served the citizens as Tate County's Emergency Management
26 Director, Fire Coordinator and as President of the Tate County
27 E-911 Board; and 18 years as Chief of the Senatobia Volunteer Fire
28 Department; and

29 WHEREAS, he also served for 26 years with the Mississippi
30 National Guard and retired from that career in 1995 at the rank of
31 Sergeant Major; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Latham also served on various committees and
33 organizations including two terms as President for the Central
34 United States Earthquake Consortium, Chairmanship of the National
35 Emergency Management Association's Legislative Committee, and
36 lifetime membership to the Mississippi Civil Defense/Emergency
37 Management Association, an organization that recognized him as the
38 Emergency Manager of the Year Award in 2000; and

39 WHEREAS, Robert Latham was also presented with many awards
40 and accommodations during his career for his lifelong service to
41 always help further the cause of emergency management not only
42 throughout Mississippi, but the entire United States, as it was
43 his passion to ensure that public education about disaster
44 preparedness was a forefront of the Mississippi Emergency
45 Management Agency; and

46 WHEREAS, this Legislature finds it most benefiting and
47 appropriate to recognize the diligence of this state employee who
48 has unselfishly given of his time and energy to provide a safer
49 and better means of living to all the citizens of this state, and
50 has gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the disaster
51 preparedness of all Mississippi residents:

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 commend and congratulate Robert Latham on the
55 occasion of his retirement from the Mississippi Emergency
56 Management Agency and extend warmest wishes for continued success
57 in all his future endeavors.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
59 Robert R. Latham, Jr., and forwarded to the Mississippi Emergency
60 Management Agency and members of the Capitol Press Corps.