

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 582

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC  
2 SERVICE OF FORMER GULFPORT MAYOR AND RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL KEN  
3 COMBS, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, retired Brigadier General and former Mayor Kincheon  
5 Varner (Ken) Combs, 77, of Gulfport, Mississippi, died Tuesday,  
6 February 13, 2007; and

7 WHEREAS, former Gulfport Mayor Combs served as Mayor from  
8 1989 to 1993 and from 2001 to 2005. Mayor Brent Warr ordered all  
9 flags in the city to be flown at half-staff in his honor; and

10 WHEREAS, he was born April 22, 1929, to Robert and Mary Combs  
11 and was the oldest of 7 children. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine  
12 Corps at age 17. While enrolled at Jones County Junior College in  
13 Ellisville, Mississippi, he joined the Army National Guard and his  
14 unit was activated during the Korean Conflict, where he spent 9  
15 months in Japan. He later continued his education at Jones County  
16 Junior College and Mississippi State University, where he received  
17 a degree in Civil Engineering. Mr. Combs also attended the U.S.  
18 Army Engineer Officer School, the U.S. Army Engineer Advanced  
19 Officer School, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, during the late 1950s and early 1960s, Ken Combs was  
22 a Captain in the Army National Guard and was the Engineer Officer  
23 for the State of Mississippi, with his office in the State Capitol  
24 Building in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1965, he moved to Gulfport  
25 where he became the Base Civil Engineer at the Air National Guard  
26 Training Site; and

27           WHEREAS, after many years as the Base Civil Engineer and  
28 promotions to Major, Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel, Ken Combs was  
29 appointed Commander of the Air National Guard Training Site until  
30 his retirement in 1989, retiring as Brigadier General, U.S.A.F.  
31 Other appointments or positions held during his years in the  
32 National Guard were as follows: Vice President of the Air  
33 National Guard Association, 1972-1973; Director of the National  
34 Guard Association of Mississippi, 1977-1979; and appointed to  
35 Executive Council of the National Guard Association of the United  
36 States, 1985; and

37           WHEREAS, immediately upon retirement from the Air National  
38 Guard in 1989 he was elected to his first term as Mayor of  
39 Gulfport in 1989 and served until 1993 and then was reelected to  
40 his second consecutive term in 1993 and served until 1997; and

41           WHEREAS, Mayor Combs worked for the Public Service Commission  
42 between 1997-2000 with his office being in Biloxi. He was again  
43 elected Mayor of Gulfport in 2001; and

44           WHEREAS, to name every accomplishment, service, award, honor  
45 or recognition throughout his remarkable lifetime would be  
46 impossible. Outstanding appointments or positions held by Mayor  
47 Combs and his awards/recognitions include: served on the Boy  
48 Scouts Pine Burr Area Council, where he received their highest  
49 honor, and the Silver Beaver Award for Distinguished Service to  
50 Boyhood, from the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of  
51 America, in 1971. He also served on the Girl Scouts Pine Burr  
52 Area Council, recipient of the Paul Harris Award by the Gulfport  
53 Rotary Club, was the Director of Gulfport Civil Service  
54 Commission, past President of the Gulfport School System Board of  
55 Education, and past President of the Gulf Coast Crime Commission;  
56 and

57           WHEREAS, he was honored by Mayor Bob Short and the City of  
58 Gulfport when the Courthouse Road Pier was renamed the Ken Combs  
59 Pier; and

60           WHEREAS, since 1966, Mr. Combs was an active member of  
61 Trinity United Methodist Church and served on numerous church  
62 committees and boards; and

63           WHEREAS, survivors include his wife of 56 years, Nita Combs;  
64 three daughters, Cathy Combs Longino, Carol Combs Smith and  
65 Frances Combs McGuire, all of Gulfport; two sons, Lieutenant  
66 Colonel Robert V. "Bob" (Bobbi Helms) Combs, Ret., Woodbridge,  
67 Virginia, and Ken (Edie Waltman) Combs, Jr., Gulfport,  
68 Mississippi; 11 grandchildren; two brothers; and numerous nieces  
69 and nephews located across the United States; and

70           WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this  
71 military and civic leader who had the support and confidence of  
72 the residents of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and a grateful state  
73 offers our thanks for his selfless service:

74           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
75 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
76 we do hereby commend the life and public service of former  
77 Gulfport Mayor and retired Brigadier General Kincheon V. (Ken)  
78 Combs and express to his surviving family the sympathy of the  
79 Legislature on his passing.

80           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
81 the surviving family of Mayor Combs and be forwarded to the  
82 Gulfport Mayor Brent Warr and Board of Aldermen and be made  
83 available to the Capitol Press Corps.