

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Thames,
 Nunnelee, Kirby, Posey, Gollott, Jackson
 (15th), Morgan, Gordon, Harden,
 Browning, Frazier, Horhn, Williamson,
 Jordan, Fillingane, Moffatt, Lee (35th),
 Carmichael, King, Walley, Burton,
 Mettetal, White, Bryan, Hewes, Dawkins,
 Tollison, Walls, Wilemon, Jackson
 (11th), Hyde-Smith, Little, Thomas,
 Chaney, Brown, Jackson (32nd), Flowers,
 Ross, Butler, Lee (47th), Chassaniol,
 Albritton, Michel, Clarke, Doxey,
 Pickering, Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 591

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO COMMEND SECRETARY OF STATE ERIC
 2 CLARK FOR HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF
 3 MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Secretary of State Eric Clark, who has spent decades
 5 in dedicated public service, has announced that he will not seek a
 6 fourth term in office; and

7 WHEREAS, Eric Clark is now serving his third term as
 8 Mississippi's Secretary of State. He was elected to the statewide
 9 office in 1995 and reelected in 1999 and 2003; and

10 WHEREAS, a native of Smith County born in 1951, Eric Clarke
 11 has focused the Secretary of State's Office on four primary goals:
 12 protecting the integrity of the state's elections; promoting sound
 13 land management; strengthening Mississippi's business climate; and
 14 safeguarding the investments and charitable donations of
 15 Mississippians; and

16 WHEREAS, as the state's Chief Elections Officer, Clark has
 17 reformed the state's campaign finance disclosure laws and secured
 18 passage of new measures to combat voter fraud. He has expanded
 19 voter education programs with "Promote the Vote," which was
 20 recognized by CNN and *TIME Magazine* as the most successful student
 21 voter project in the country, and "Vote in Honor of a Veteran" to
 22 recognize the service and sacrifice of those who make our
 23 democracy possible; and

24 WHEREAS, Clark oversees more than 1.3 million acres of
 25 state-owned land, including 16th section lands for the support of
 26 public education. These lands, set aside at statehood, generate

27 approximately \$50 Million annually for schools in Mississippi.
28 Clark also serves as trustee of the public trust tidelands on the
29 Gulf Coast. In this capacity, he has promoted balanced economic
30 development and led in the acquisition of more than 15,000 acres
31 of endangered coastal wetlands, including Deer Island, for
32 permanent preservation; and

33 WHEREAS, as Secretary of State, Clark's office is the first
34 point of contact for many businesses and industries in
35 Mississippi. To provide more efficient service, Clark overhauled
36 the agency to provide faster, more efficient customer service. He
37 enforces the laws that protect Mississippi investors and has
38 helped recover more than \$26 Million in stolen money. He has
39 strengthened the climate for charitable giving in Mississippi, so
40 that donors may have confidence their gifts go to those who really
41 need help; and

42 WHEREAS, prior to his election as Secretary of State, Clark
43 served four terms as a member of the state House of
44 Representatives. He is a member of the Mississippi Economic
45 Council, Mississippi Farm Bureau, Mississippi Forestry Association
46 and Mississippi Historical Society. He has been recognized with
47 the American Family Association's "God and Country" Award for
48 authoring the law that outlawed possession of child pornography in
49 Mississippi, and the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's
50 Conservation Legislator of the Year for his efforts to preserve
51 natural lands on the Gulf Coast; and

52 WHEREAS, Eric Clark is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John
53 S. Clark. His father also served Smith County in the Mississippi
54 House of Representatives, and his mother, Mamie Craft Clark, was a
55 respected community leader. Clark was Valedictorian of his class
56 at Taylorsville High School. He received a Bachelor's Degree from
57 Millsaps College, a Master's Degree from the University of
58 Mississippi, and a Doctorate in History from Mississippi State
59 University. A former public school and community college teacher,

60 Clark taught history and government at Mississippi College from
61 1989-1995. He also manages his family tree farm in Smith County;
62 and

63 WHEREAS, Eric Clark is married to the former Karan Killebrew.
64 Karan is a registered nurse who grew up in Durant and Forest,
65 Mississippi. They are the parents of two children -- Charles, 19,
66 and Catherine, 13. The Clarks are active members of the First
67 Baptist Church of Brandon, where Eric serves as a Deacon and
68 Sunday School Teacher; and

69 WHEREAS, Eric Clark was a workhorse statesman who fought the
70 tough battles that needed fighting, and his integrity, ethical
71 leadership and work ethic set a model for other Mississippi
72 officials to emulate:

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
74 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
75 we do hereby commend Secretary of State Eric Clark for his
76 distinguished service to the people of the State of Mississippi,
77 which has enriched everyone with whom he was associated, and we
78 wish Secretary Clark and his family much success in their future
79 endeavors.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
81 Secretary Clark and his family and be made available to the
82 Capitol Press Corps.