

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Turner, Bryan,
Robertson, Ross, Mettetal, Nunnelee, Little,
Fillingane, Doxey

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 623

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DEDICATED PUBLIC
2 SERVICE AND LEGACY OF MISSISSIPPI SUPREME COURT PRESIDING JUSTICE
3 AND FORMER STATE SENATOR KAY BEEVERS COBB ON THE OCCASION OF HER
4 RETIREMENT FROM OFFICE.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi Supreme Court Presiding Justice Kay
6 Beevers Cobb, the only female justice currently on the nine-member
7 court, has announced that she will retire from the bench effective
8 May 1, 2007, to spend more time with her family; and

9 WHEREAS, Justice Cobb served one term in the Mississippi
10 State Senate from 1992-1996, and was appointed to the court by
11 Governor Kirk Fordice in 1999 and elected in 2000 to a full term
12 that expires in January 2009; and

13 WHEREAS, considered an outstanding jurist, Justice Cobb is a
14 graduate of Mississippi University for Women and is only the
15 second woman to serve on the Mississippi Supreme Court, having
16 served briefly with former Chief Justice Lenore Prather; and

17 WHEREAS, her professional experience on the court includes
18 the following: appointed 1999; elected 2000-2008; Presiding
19 Justice since April 1, 2004; Chairman, Continuing Judicial
20 Education Commission, 1999-2001; member, Judicial Study
21 Commission, 2001; Chairman, Supreme Court Technology Committee,
22 2004-present; Chairman, Human Resources Committee, 2006-present;
23 member, Supreme Court Rules Committee, Trial/Appellate Courts,
24 2001-2004; member, Capital Post-Conviction Counsel Committee,
25 2001-2002; member, Mississippi Judicial Advisory Study Committee,
26 Criminal Code Reform, 1999-2006; Court's Liaison to the Commission
27 to Address Concerns of Impaired Lawyers, 2006-present; and Court's

28 Liaison to the Gender Fairness Advisory Study Committee,
29 2006-present; and

30 WHEREAS, while in the Mississippi Senate, she served as Chair
31 of the Elections Committee; prior to her service in the
32 Legislature, Justice Cobb was Special Assistant Attorney General
33 for North Mississippi, Senior Attorney for the Mississippi Bureau
34 of Narcotics and Director of Prosecutor Programs for the
35 Mississippi Prosecutors College, University of Mississippi School
36 of Law; and

37 WHEREAS, her professional activities in the practice of law
38 include the following: President's Commission on United States
39 Model State Drug Laws, 1992-1993; National Alliance for Model
40 State Drug Laws, 1993-present; Mississippi Bar Association,
41 1978-present; Commission on the Courts for the 21st Century,
42 1992-1994; Women in the Profession Committee, 2001-present;
43 Lafayette County Bar Association, 1978-present; President, 1982;
44 Vice President, 1981; Secretary, 1980; Mississippi Prosecutors
45 Association, 1982-1988; Mississippi Women Lawyers Association,
46 1999-present; Southern Women in Public Service, Pacesetter, 1992,
47 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004; Council of Pacesetters, 2007; Charles
48 Clark American Inn of Court, Barrister, 2002-2004; Bencher,
49 2005-present; Program Chair, 2005; Nominating Committee,
50 2005-2006; Nellie Nugent Somerville Lecture in Government and
51 Public Affairs, March 3, 2003; Chief Justice Award (for work
52 revising Mississippi Rules of Court), July 2003; Mississippi
53 Commission on the Status of Women, Advisory Board, 2006-present;
54 and Lamar Order, University of Mississippi School of Law,
55 2003-present; and

56 WHEREAS, Justice Cobb's civic and community activities are
57 considerable: Inter-Alumni Council, State Institutions of Higher
58 Learning; Mississippi University for Women Alumnae Association
59 Board; MUW Foundation Board; MUW Alumnae Achievement Award; MUW
60 Medal of Excellence; MUW Presidential Search, Campus Advisory

61 Committee; Oxford-Lafayette County Chamber of Commerce; Lafayette
62 Leadership; Lafayette County Extension Advisory Council; Lafayette
63 County SWEEPS Council; Lafayette County Child Development Council;
64 MSU Outstanding Mississippi Woman Award; National Youth Sports
65 Program Advisory Board; Oxford AAUW (American Association of
66 University Women) Woman of Achievement Award; Leadership
67 Lafayette, Legacy of Leadership Award; Oxford Business and
68 Professional Women, former President; Oxford Pilot Club; First
69 Baptist Church, Oxford, Sunday School Teacher; and
70 Oxford-Lafayette County Vision 20/20 Task Force Member and Chair;
71 and

72 WHEREAS, she has been married 44 years to Larry D. Cobb, and
73 the couple has two daughters and five grandchildren. She is a
74 native of Quitman County, Mississippi, reared in Cleveland,
75 Mississippi, and has been a resident of Oxford, Mississippi, for
76 31 years; and

77 WHEREAS, Justice Cobb has considered herself as a role model
78 and mentor for women in the legal profession. She always
79 endeavored to do her best and improve the opportunities for women
80 who would follow her on the Mississippi Supreme Court, and it is
81 with great pride that we recognize the diligence of this jurist
82 who has brought honor to her court, her profession and to the
83 State of Mississippi:

84 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
85 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
86 we do hereby commend the public service and legacy of Mississippi
87 Supreme Court Presiding Justice and former State Senator Kay
88 Beevers Cobb on the occasion of her retirement from office, and
89 extend to her and her family the best wishes of the Legislature in
90 their future endeavors.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
92 Justice Cobb, forwarded to the Clerk of the Mississippi Supreme
93 Court and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.