

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Jordan

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 25

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED CIVIC AND
2 CHARITABLE SERVICE OF WILLIAM H. FRAZER OF CLARKSDALE,
3 MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE SENATE ON HIS
4 PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, William H. Frazer, a business and civic leader of
6 Clarksdale, Mississippi, was born on September 26, 1915, and
7 passed away on March 17, 2007, and in between led a life that
8 earned him the respect of an editorial appearing in the *Clarksdale*
9 *Press Register* describing him as "a giant among men and will be
10 sorely missed by all"; and

11 WHEREAS, one of his last goals in his long and glorious life
12 was to outlive his loving wife in order to take care of her to her
13 final day and her permanent resting place. His wife, Kathryn Lea
14 (Katie), preceded him in death by just 25 days; and

15 WHEREAS, his daughter, Kathie Frazer Gieselmann, of Memphis,
16 Tennessee, said of him, "Dad was the epitome of a southern
17 gentleman. He has been the most incredible father and leader in
18 this family and he was a man of the highest integrity. I just
19 feel so blessed to have had an incredible role model in my life
20 and my children's lives. I'm just so grateful"; and

21 WHEREAS, Billy, as he was known to his friends, graduated
22 from Clarksdale High School and later the Louisiana State
23 University School of Banking where he was President of the Class
24 of 1954 and started his banking career in 1936 for Coahoma County
25 Bank and Trust Company as a clerk, teller, bookkeeper, served as a
26 corporate board member of Sunburst Banking System, and 44 years
27 later until his retirement in 1980 as President; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Frazer endured the depths of the Great
29 Depression, World War II, the Korean Conflict and the onset of the
30 Vietnam War, serving Clarksdale and other Coahoma County residents
31 as past President of the Clarksdale-Coahoma County Chamber of
32 Commerce, past Vice Chairman and Director of the
33 Clarksdale-Coahoma County Industrial Foundation, past President of
34 the Clarksdale Rotary Club, was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow
35 from Rotary International, and was a past Director and Treasurer
36 of Delta Council; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Frazer served as a Gunnery Instructor during
38 World War II, served many years as a director and volunteer with
39 the Boy Scouts of America and was awarded the Silver Beaver,
40 highest honor for a volunteer, served over 15 years as Trustee on
41 the Clarksdale Public School Board, was a past President and
42 Director of the Coahoma Literacy Council, was active with the
43 American Red Cross, Cancer Drive, United Fund, Heart Fund and
44 March of Dimes, and served meals to the needy with the Care
45 Station in Clarksdale; and

46 WHEREAS, he was a devoted member of St. George's Episcopal
47 Church, where he served as past Senior and Junior Warden and
48 vestry member and was a licensed lay reader and head of numerous
49 stewardship drives; and

50 WHEREAS, the Frazers had 9 grandchildren and 11
51 great-grandchildren and his life is best described by his son,
52 Willis, with these words: "Dad has been a strong supporter of St.
53 George's Episcopal Church. One of my father's greatest character
54 traits has always been his unwavering optimism. When my father
55 began losing his eyesight in the early 1980s, he never let it stop
56 him. It was his nature to always see a cup as half full, not half
57 empty"; and

58 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
59 respected community leader:

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
61 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life and dedicated
62 civic and charitable service of William H. Frazer of Clarksdale,
63 Mississippi, and express to his surviving family the sympathy of
64 the Mississippi Senate on his passing.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
66 the surviving family of Mr. Frazer and be made available to the
67 Capitol Press Corps.