

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Jordan,  
Frazier, Horhn, Hyde-Smith, Simmons

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.