

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Bryan, To: Rules  
Blount, Burton, Butler,  
Carmichael, Clarke, Dawkins,  
Dearing, Frazier, Jackson  
(11th), Jordan, Turner

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 507

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF  
2 RESPECTED VICKSBURG ARTIST AND EDUCATOR JANN TERRAL FERRIS, AND  
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi lost a respected arts  
5 educator, advocate and artist with the death of Jann Terral Ferris  
6 on June 23, 2009; and

7 WHEREAS, Jann was the wife of former State Senator Grey  
8 Flowers Ferris of Vicksburg, Mississippi, who as Chairman of the  
9 Senate Education Committee was the author of the Mississippi  
10 Adequate Education Act of 1997 and other important education  
11 reform legislation; and

12 WHEREAS, Jann Ferris' professional legacy is the  
13 infrastructure and expansion of the Mississippi Arts Commission's  
14 Whole Schools Initiative, a program of comprehensive school reform  
15 through arts-integrated curriculum; and

16 WHEREAS, Jann met Grey Ferris while she was a freshman at  
17 Sophie Newcomb College. They married in June 1970. She graduated  
18 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art and she later received  
19 two masters degrees from Mississippi College in Art Education and  
20 Administration; and

21 WHEREAS, passionate about children and education, Jann spent  
22 the major part of her working life as an arts educator, advocate,  
23 and creative artist, leaving a remarkable legacy in arts education  
24 in Mississippi; and



25           WHEREAS, she served as President of the Mississippi Craftsman  
26 Guild and spearheaded arts in the curriculum program at Beechwood  
27 Elementary School in Vicksburg in 1991. This effort won the  
28 school a Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1998 and  
29 the program became a national model. Still thriving today, the  
30 Whole Schools Initiative Program places Mississippi at the very  
31 top of its field in the area of arts education; and

32           WHEREAS, Jann went on to work for the Mississippi Arts  
33 Commission and in recent years received recognition for her  
34 jewelry designs, as well as for her fanciful and exuberant  
35 drawings. These drawings were featured in a one-woman show called  
36 "Freefall into Grace" at the Mississippi Museum of Art in 2007;  
37 and

38           WHEREAS, Jann was born in Ruston, Louisiana, on June 29,  
39 1949, to Dr. William Terral and Lylen (Mitty) Terral. She is  
40 survived by her parents and her daughter, Lylen Ferris and  
41 husband, Michael Swiericzuk; grandchildren, Nathan and Ruby  
42 Swiericzuk; son, Jason Ferris and wife, Rebecca; brothers, Dr.  
43 Buddy Terral, Mark (Scott) Terral, Brett Terral and wife, Lizette,  
44 Dr. Greg Terral and wife, Lori; mother-in-law, Shelby Flowers  
45 Ferris, and many adoring nephews, nieces and friends; and

46           WHEREAS, Jann's life and public service set the highest  
47 standard in all of her many roles, and Mississippians are greatly  
48 diminished by her passing:

49           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
50 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
51 we do hereby commend the life and service of respected Vicksburg  
52 artist and educator Jann Terral Ferris, wife of the late State  
53 Senator Grey Ferris, and express to her surviving family our  
54 sympathy on her passing.

55           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
56 the surviving family of Jann Ferris and be made available to the  
57 Capitol Press Corps.

