

By: Senator(s) Hopson, Blackwell, Branning,
Clarke, Fillingane, McMahan, Simmons (12th),
Simmons (13th), Jackson (11th), Jackson
(32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 509

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE PASSING OF ROBERT SHARP
2 FORSTER OF OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI, CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER OF THE
3 MISSISSIPPI SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER, AND EXTENDING THE
4 SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of
6 Robert Sharp Forster on November 12, 2015, at age 70. Robert's
7 civic energy and contributions to the State of Mississippi are a
8 matter of record; and

9 WHEREAS, born on June 24, 1945, in San Salvador, El Salvador,
10 Robert was the son of the late Franz Forster and the late Inez
11 Sharp Forster. Robert grew up in Guatemala City, Guatemala. At
12 the age of 15 he moved to Berwick, Maine, to attend boarding
13 school and thereafter built his life in the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Robert earned his undergraduate degree from the
15 University of New Hampshire and a law degree from the University
16 of Mississippi; and

17 WHEREAS, Robert was Chief Operations Officer of the
18 Mississippi Small Business Development Center (MSBDC). For many
19 years he served Pan-American Life Insurance Company in New



20 Orleans, Louisiana, in varying capacities, finally as General
21 Counsel; and

22 WHEREAS, Robert's energy and enthusiasm for all that life
23 offered were remarkable. He loved people and was known to strike
24 up a conversation anywhere; he also loved dogs, dachshunds
25 especially, and adopted many over the years; and

26 WHEREAS, Robert traveled broadly throughout the course of his
27 life and was delighted by new experiences. He was especially fond
28 of the elderly, with whom he spent countless hours in
29 conversation. Perhaps most of all, he was notable for the
30 thousands of small kindnesses, known and unknown, that he extended
31 to friends, family and strangers over the decades; and

32 WHEREAS, Robert is survived by his wife, Ann Millsaps
33 Forster; children, Elizabeth Lindsey Forster of Houston, Texas,
34 and Robert (Kathryn) Sharp Forster, Jr., of Los Angeles,
35 California; grandchildren, Augusta Wilson Forster and Griffin
36 Fairfax Forster; niece, Ivanna Forster Novella; and stepchildren,
37 Katherine Wallace Dowdle (Jed) of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Gray
38 Wallace of Starkville, Mississippi. Robert was preceded in death
39 by his sister, Frances Sharp Forster; and

40 WHEREAS, Robert served as a leader and mentor and we pay
41 tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this most public-spirited
42 citizen of Mississippi:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That



45 we do hereby mourn the passing of Robert Sharp Forster of Oxford,
46 Mississippi, Chief Operations Officer of the Mississippi Small
47 Business Development Center, and extend the sympathy of the
48 Legislature to his family.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
50 the surviving family of Robert Forster, forwarded to the
51 Mississippi Small Business Development Center and the Office of
52 the Governor, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

