

By: Senator(s) Burton, Blackwell,  
Carmichael, Chassaniol, Clarke, Dearing,  
Fillingane, Kirby, Simmons (13th), Jackson  
(11th), Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 512

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LEGACY AND MOURNING  
2 THE PASSING OF GOP PIONEER LEON C. BRAMLETT OF CLARKSDALE,  
3 MISSISSIPPI, AND EXTENDING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, Leon C. Bramlett, a retired farmer and pioneer of  
5 the modern Mississippi Republican Party, passed away October 19,  
6 2015, at the age of 92; and

7 WHEREAS, Bramlett ran for Governor in 1979 and lost in the  
8 Republican Primary to Gil Carmichael. In 1983, he ran again and  
9 was the Republican nominee against Democrat Bill Allain who was  
10 completing his one term as Attorney General; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1988, he was inducted into the Mississippi Sports  
12 Hall of Fame. An All-American at the U.S. Naval Academy, he led  
13 the school's football team and was a Heavyweight Boxing Champion.  
14 He later coached football at the Naval Academy; and

15 WHEREAS, a former Chairman of the Mississippi Democratic  
16 Party, Bramlett was recommended as a potential Republican  
17 candidate to Jackson Oilman and Republican Leader Billy Mounger in  
18 1979 by former Democratic Governor John Bell Williams. Mounger



19 opposed Carmichael and he and former Republic Party Chairman Wirt  
20 Yerger organized the Bramlett Campaign along with other activists  
21 who had supported Ronald Reagan over Gerald Ford at the 1976  
22 Republican National Convention. Bramlett's words show many of the  
23 same issues addressed by candidates and voters today, were a  
24 concern in 1979 as well: "A changing national mood is causing  
25 voters to reject traditional political methods. They're electing  
26 new faces to government because they've seen that the old ways  
27 just don't work any more. We can't look any more to yesterday's  
28 politicians for tomorrow's answers. I'm not a professional  
29 politician. What I do offer is integrity, common sense and  
30 businesslike approach to government"; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1983, Bramlett ran again and was the Republican  
32 nominee for Governor. Reflecting on the campaign this week,  
33 former Republican Party Chairman Clarke Reed of Greenville told  
34 the Associated Press, "Bramlett took the high road in his  
35 campaign, and some of his friends didn't"; and

36 WHEREAS, over this past decade, Bramlett served in Senator  
37 Thad Cochran's state office in the Delta. He retired in 2014.  
38 Cochran said in a statement, "I am saddened by the passing of Leon  
39 Bramlett. He was a gentleman and as fine a man as you would want  
40 to meet. His service to the people of Mississippi is indicative  
41 of a life characterized by service to others and a love of family,  
42 the Delta and our country"; and



43           WHEREAS, Governor Phil Bryant expressed his condolences to  
44 Bramlett's family in a statement this week, "Leon was a great  
45 American who served his state and his nation with honor and  
46 distinction. In everything he did, as a Naval Academy graduate, a  
47 U.S. Marine, a Republican gubernatorial nominee, and a community  
48 leader, he always served with dignity, principle and dedication.  
49 It was a great privilege to know him"; and we pay tribute and  
50 cherish fondly the memory of this most public-spirited citizen of  
51 Mississippi with enormous civic energy which is an example to all:

52           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
53 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
54 we do hereby commend the legacy and mourn the passing of GOP  
55 pioneer Leon C. Bramlett of Clarksdale, Mississippi, and extend  
56 the sympathy of the Legislature.

57           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
58 the surviving family of Leon Bramlett, forwarded to the Governor  
59 of the State of Mississippi and the Mississippi Republican Party,  
60 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

