

By: Senator(s) Simmons (13th), Butler,
Hopson, Barnett, Blackwell, Carmichael,
Caughman, Clarke, Dearing, Fillingane,
Frazier, Norwood, Simmons (12th), Stone,
Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 526

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS OF LEGENDARY ALCORN
2 STATE UNIVERSITY TRAILBLAZER BASKETBALL COACH DAVEY WHITNEY AND
3 EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS SURVIVING
4 FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, Coach Davey Whitney, who died May 10, 2015, at 85,
6 won 566 college basketball games. He was a Kentucky native and a
7 Mississippi Trailblazer, who changed the sport forever in his
8 adopted home state. He will be remembered as one of Mississippi's
9 greatest coaches in any sport at any level. Five years after a
10 memorable victory over Jackson State, he took his Alcorn Braves to
11 Mississippi State and defeated the Bulldogs in the National
12 Invitation Tournament (NIT). In that same NIT, Bobby Knight's
13 Indiana Hoosiers, three years removed from a perfect season,
14 barely survived Whitney's Braves at Bloomington. Knight was so
15 impressed he hired Whitney to help him coach Team USA; and

16 WHEREAS, Davey Whitney completed 27 seasons as the Head Men's
17 Basketball Coach of the Alcorn State University Braves Basketball
18 Program and has set standards which no other coach in Alcorn State
19 or Southwestern Athletic Conference history can match; and with a



20 career record of 566 wins and 354 losses as a collegiate head
21 coach and a career record at Alcorn State of 510 wins and 301
22 losses, Whitney has spearheaded more winning seasons than any of
23 his predecessors. He was the first SWAC Coach to lead his team to
24 a victory in the NCAA Division I Basketball Championships; other
25 accolades of Coach Whitney include the Alcorn Heritage Award
26 (2012), National Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame
27 (2010), Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame (1991), SWAC Hall of Fame,
28 Alcorn State I-Tall of Honors (1993), and Alcorn State Hall of
29 Fame (1996); and

30 WHEREAS, in July 2002, Whitney became the first-ever
31 recipient of the NCAA Hall of Champions Journey Award. This award
32 was the result of his continued success and contributions to
33 college basketball; and at Alcorn State University and around the
34 nation, he has been affectionately nicknamed the "Wiz." His teams
35 have won 12 Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) regular season
36 titles, a record four consecutive titles between 1978-1982.
37 Notably, his teams have participated in 12 national post-season
38 tournaments, have won five NAIA District Titles, and placed Second
39 and Third in the national tournaments during the 1970s; and

40 WHEREAS, Alcorn State basketball during the Whitney era
41 became the first historically black institution to compete in the
42 National Invitation Tournament with a 1979 bid. In one of the
43 most historical contests, the Braves defeated the Bulldogs of
44 Mississippi State University at Starkville (80-78) before falling



45 to eventual Champion Indiana University (73-69) in the second
46 round; for an encore, a Whitney-led Alcorn State Team defeated
47 South Alabama in 1980 (70-62) to become the first historically
48 black institution to win in the NCAA Playoffs; on December 20,
49 1999, Coach Whitney reached a milestone in his storied career when
50 he became part of a select group of Division I coaches to have
51 reached the 500-win mark during their careers; and Alcorn State
52 has made six trips to the NCAA Tournament under Coach Whitney in
53 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1999 and 2002. Alcorn State has won its
54 last 12 Southwestern Athletic Conference regular season titles
55 under Coach Whitney in 1973, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1984,
56 1985, 1986, 1999, 2000 and 2002; and he has won SWAC Coach of the
57 Year honors nine times and his coaching ledger includes being a
58 member of the United States Olympic Coaching and Trial Selection
59 Committee at the 1984 and 1986 Olympics; and

60 WHEREAS, the precious memories of Davey "The Wiz" Whitney
61 will forever linger in the hearts and minds of all who knew him.
62 The memories will be cherished by his wife of 62 beautiful years,
63 Mrs. Bernice Whitney; and his five children: Gail of Augusta,
64 Georgia, Libby of Austin, Texas, and Lisa, Doreen and Davey, Jr.,
65 all of Biloxi, Mississippi; his adopted son, L.M. Ellis of
66 Clarksville, Tennessee; four grandchildren: Ashantee, Aubrei,
67 Corey and Duonne; a special friend and traveling buddy, Melvin G.
68 Cooper; along with a host of friends, former colleagues and former



69 basketball players, many of whom regard him as a father figure and
70 a mentor; and

71 WHEREAS, Davey unselfishly shared his gifts and talents, as
72 he served his family and community wholeheartedly. His community
73 service and affiliations extended to include life membership of
74 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (Theta Sigma Lambda Chapter); the
75 Milton "CAP" Johnson Lodge 708 F&AM; the National Association of
76 Basketball Coaches (NABC); and the National Association of
77 Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame Committee. He honored and
78 cherished the commitment he vowed to these organizations; and

79 WHEREAS, Davey Whitney changed the sport of basketball, and
80 it is with great pride that we pay tribute to a Mississippi sports
81 legend:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
83 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
84 we do hereby mourn the loss of legendary Alcorn State University
85 Trailblazer Basketball Coach Davey Whitney, and extend the
86 condolences of the Legislature to his surviving family.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
88 the surviving family of Coach Whitney, forwarded to the President
89 of Alcorn State University and the Board of Trustees of State
90 Institutions of Higher Learning, and made available to the Capitol
91 Press Corps.

