

By: Senator(s) McMahan, Barnett, Blackwell, Blount, Browning, Burton, Dearing, Frazier, Horhn, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Jolly, Jordan, Kirby, Moran, Parks, Simmons (12th), Stone, Tollison, Wilemon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 555

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE PASSING OF MISSISSIPPI
2 EDUCATION CHAMPION AND COMMUNITY BUILDER JACK RAYMOND REED, SR.,
3 OF TUPELO AND EXTENDING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS
4 FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, Jack Raymond Reed, Sr., the Tupelo businessman who
6 rallied support for public education in Mississippi, passed away
7 on January 27, 2016, at the age of 91. "Mississippians have lost
8 one of the most preeminent citizens in our long history," United
9 States Senator Roger Wicker stated; and

10 WHEREAS, few individuals have positively impacted the State
11 of Mississippi like Jack Raymond Reed, Sr. A lifelong resident of
12 Tupelo, Reed earned degrees from Vanderbilt University and New
13 York University before returning to a life of business and service
14 in his home state; and

15 WHEREAS, a veteran of the United States Army who served in
16 Australia and Japan during the Second World War, Mr. Reed made a
17 career in business, managing Reed's Department Store and Reed
18 Manufacturing Company. Reed was instrumental in building the
19 Community Development Foundation, focused on regional economic



20 development, and the CREATE Foundation, Mississippi's first
21 community foundation. As a successful business leader, Reed had a
22 strong impact on the growth of Tupelo, but his legacy goes much
23 farther; and

24 WHEREAS, efforts to desegregate schools in the 1970s
25 challenged communities across Mississippi, but Reed courageously
26 supported public education in his community and throughout the
27 state. Governor William Winter acknowledged Mr. Reed's commitment
28 to public education by naming him Chair of the Special Committee
29 on Public Education, which laid the groundwork for the historic
30 Education Reform Act of 1982; and

31 WHEREAS, he later Chaired Mississippi's first lay State Board
32 of Education from 1982-1987, and was tapped by President George
33 H.W. Bush to head the National Advisory Committee on Education
34 Research and Improvement. His commitment to public education
35 figured prominently in his campaign as the Republican nominee for
36 Governor in 1987. The Mississippi Association of Partners in
37 Education Winter-Reed Partnership Award was established to honor
38 the unique bipartisan relationship forged by Governor Winter and
39 Jack Reed; and

40 WHEREAS, active in the United Methodist Church, Reed served
41 on the United Methodist National Commission on Religion and Race
42 with then-Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Chairman
43 Joseph Lowery and other Civil Rights figures. He is a former
44 member of the Millsaps Board of Trustees, past Chairman of the



45 First United Methodist Church in Tupelo, and was among the
46 founders of LIFT, Inc., one of the first community services
47 agencies in Mississippi and home of Tupelo's Head Start Program;
48 and

49 WHEREAS, Jack Reed was a person of eloquence and a complete
50 mastery of the political and economic development process whose
51 strong, decisive leadership has built an indelible legacy of
52 progress in his beloved State of Mississippi; and

53 WHEREAS, he is survived by his four children: Jack, Jr.,
54 (Lisa), who is on the MEC Board of Directors and previously served
55 as Tupelo's Mayor, Camille Sloan (Crofton), Catherine Dale Mize
56 (Paul) and Scott Reed (Annette); twelve grandchildren: Frances
57 Clayton, Kirk Reed Forrester (Tate), Claude Clayton, III (Roxie),
58 Jack Reed, III (Ashley), Paul Mize, III (Bonnie), Bennett Mize,
59 Dakin Reed, Lilla Reed, Rollin Sloan (Spring), Shipman Sloan (Anna
60 Kathryn), Spencer Sloan and Crofton Sloan, III; ten
61 great-grandchildren; his business associates, Lex Jackson (Judith)
62 and Clyde Biddle; and all of his loyal and appreciated fellow
63 employees at Reed's; a special friend, Mary Catron; and special
64 friends, Willie Pierce and Peewee Warren; as well as later-in-life
65 caretakers, and many, many friends and relatives who made his life
66 a wonderful journey. Jack served as a leader for public education
67 and we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this most
68 public-spirited citizen of Mississippi:



69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
70 the surviving family of Jack Reed, Sr., forwarded to the State
71 Board of Education, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of Tupelo, the
72 Office of the Governor, and made available to the Capitol Press
73 Corps.

