

By: Senator(s) Simmons (12th), Barnett, Clarke, Dearing, Fillingane, Frazier, Horhn, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, Norwood, Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 559

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY OF THE  
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF RESPECTED  
3 GREENVILLE EDUCATOR AND CIVIC LEADER DR. ARTHUR BENNETT PEYTON,  
4 SR.

5 WHEREAS, respected Greenville Educator and Civic Leader Dr.  
6 Arthur Bennett Peyton, Sr., ended his earthly journey on December  
7 27, 2015. Born March 30, 1929, to the late Alva and Beatrice  
8 Peyton in Greenville, Mississippi, Arthur Peyton, Sr., was  
9 preceded in death by his brothers, Alva and Perry Peyton, Ray and  
10 Roy Huddleston; and grandson, L.C. Tennin, Jr. While still a  
11 young child growing up in Greenville, Arthur joined Mercy Seat  
12 M.B. Church where he continued as a faithful member. During his  
13 membership at Mercy Seat, he served as a Deacon, Trustee, Sunday  
14 School Teacher, and Sunday School Superintendent; and

15 WHEREAS, Arthur Peyton spent most of his life in Greenville,  
16 with the exception of two years spent in Yazoo City, Mississippi,  
17 where he graduated from high school. He began his college studies  
18 at Xavier University, New Orleans, Louisiana, and later  
19 transferred to Alcorn State University (formerly Alcorn



20 Agricultural and Mechanical College), Lorman, Mississippi, and  
21 graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology. He  
22 received his Master's degree from Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee,  
23 Alabama, and engaged in further studies at the University of  
24 Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi; and

25 WHEREAS, he began his professional career at Breisch High  
26 School, Leland, Mississippi, where he spent ten years as a Teacher  
27 and Coach. His next professional step led him to Coleman  
28 Junior/Senior High School, Greenville, Mississippi, where he  
29 taught biology and coached. Prior to integration, he was  
30 transferred to the newly built T.L. Weston High School where he  
31 taught biology and established their first football team. The  
32 team was so successful that he was honored as "Outstanding Coach  
33 of the Year." He continued his career in the Greenville Public  
34 School System and served in many capacities, including Assistant  
35 Principal, Principal, Administrative Assistant, Assistant  
36 Superintendent and Superintendent; and

37 WHEREAS, his numerous community and professional activities  
38 and honors include serving as President of the Greenville Local  
39 Teacher's Association and the Third District Teacher's  
40 Association, election as President of the Mississippi Teacher's  
41 Association and appointment to the State Board of Education, where  
42 he served as Chairman. His community activities include: Past  
43 Chairman, Washington County Opportunities Headstart; Past  
44 Chairman, Textbook Procurement Commission/State of Mississippi;



45 Education Chairman, National State Board of Education; Executive  
46 Committee, Greenville Chamber of Commerce; Executive Committee,  
47 State Democratic Party; Coordinator, Roundtable for the National  
48 Baptist Labor Coalition; Chairman, Title 20 Block Grant Board;  
49 Member, Board of Directors, Mid-Delta Empowerment Zone Alliance;  
50 Chairman, Commission Board, Mid-Delta Regional Airport; Member,  
51 101 Black Men of the Delta, Inc.; Member, NAACP; and Charter  
52 Member of the Greenville, Mississippi, Alumni Chapter of Kappa  
53 Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.; and

54 WHEREAS, throughout his adult life golf was his passion. He  
55 won a City Championship and made a "hole-in-one." Following  
56 Arthur Peyton's retirement from the Greenville Public Schools, he  
57 was involved in many activities and served in many capacities in  
58 the community, always working to make life better for those around  
59 him with a genuine concern for mankind; and

60 WHEREAS, cherishing his memory, he leaves a devoted wife of  
61 64 years, Geraldine; seven children: Carol Dianne (Thomas)  
62 Danley, Benita Louise (Jerrell) Guy, Hattie Jean Peyton, Julia  
63 Cassandra (L.C.) Tennin, Arthur Bennett (Sharon) Peyton, Jr.,  
64 Perry LaNelle Peyton, and Gerald Francine Cheeks; 18  
65 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; godson, Wardell (Deborah)  
66 Ferguson; goddaughters, Tracy Grady and Devita Williams (Brian)  
67 Echols; and a host of relatives, nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws  
68 and friends; and we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of



69 this most public-spirited citizen of Mississippi whose enormous  
70 civic energy was an inspiration to his colleagues:

71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
72 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
73 we do hereby extend the deepest sympathy of the Mississippi Senate  
74 to the bereaved family of respected Greenville Educator and Civic  
75 Leader Dr. Arthur Bennett Peyton, Sr.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
77 the surviving family of Dr. Arthur Bennett Peyton, Sr., forwarded  
78 to the Greenville School Board, and made available to the Capitol  
79 Press Corps.

