

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Kirby, Norwood, To: Rules
Gollott, Burton, Barnett, Blackmon,
Blackwell, Blount, Branning, Browning,
Bryan, Butler, Carmichael, Carter,
Caughman, Chassaniol, Clarke, Dawkins,
DeBar, Dearing, Doty, Fillingane,
Harkins, Hill, Hopson, Horhn, Hudson,
Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th), Jackson
(32nd), Jolly, Jordan, Massey, McDaniel,
McMahan, Michel, Moran, Parker, Parks,
Polk, Seymour, Simmons (12th), Simmons
(13th), Tollison, Turner-Ford, Watson,
Whaley, Wiggins, Wilemon, Witherspoon,
Younger

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND REMEMBERING
2 THE DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER STATE SENATOR AND FORMER
3 REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT H. "ROB" SMITH AND EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES
4 OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS BEREAVED FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, our hearts are saddened by the passing of a
6 dedicated Mississippi public servant, former State Senator and
7 State Representative Robert H. "Rob" Smith of Florence,
8 Mississippi, who passed away on December 16, 2017; and

9 WHEREAS, Senator Smith was born on November 3, 1951, to C.E.
10 and Jewel Smith of Richland. He graduated from Florence High
11 School in 1969. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from
12 Mississippi State University and a Master of Business
13 Administration Degree from Mississippi College. Rob was a Realtor
14 and an Accountant, and owned his real estate business located in
15 Richland for 42 years. He was a member of First Baptist Church of
16 Richland. Mr. Smith loved his community and served in many
17 capacities. He was a member of the Eastern Star, Jaycees,



18 Exchange Club and was proud to be a Mason. He was very active in
19 Rotary, serving as a founding member of the South Rankin Rotary
20 Club and its President. Mr. Smith also served as the Rotary 6820
21 District Governor. He was a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow and
22 recently honored at the Rotary Club of Jackson as a Major Donor;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, his love for music lead to forming a band in high
25 school called the Rebel Rousers. He was a Singer, Songwriter and
26 Drummer. He wrote music for MBI and recorded many of his songs.
27 He played at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee. While in
28 Natchez, Mississippi, he helped form Natchez Record and Recording,
29 Inc. His passion for music was surpassed only by his passion for
30 helping others; and

31 WHEREAS, Rob dedicated his life to public service. In 1979,
32 he was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives and
33 served four years. In 1983, he was elected to the Mississippi
34 State Senate and served District 35 for 20 years. Over 24 years
35 he authored numerous pieces of legislation that greatly impacted
36 his community and state. He was very proud to author the bill
37 that gave Purple Heart recipients a free car tag, as his father
38 proudly served in World War II and was a Purple Heart recipient.
39 He worked closely with former President Bill Clinton on impactful
40 agricultural initiatives. He was an advocate for veterans,
41 firefighters and law enforcement communities. He believed in



42 public education and promoted the arts in public school
43 curriculum; and

44 WHEREAS, Rob was a man of integrity, intellect and
45 compassion. He received many awards from his legislative peers
46 and community throughout the years for his dedicated public
47 service. He truly exemplified the notion of "service above self."
48 His motto was "Lord, let me help someone today." He believed his
49 greatest accomplishments were raising two daughters, Tara and
50 Karlie, and marrying his wife, Pam; and

51 WHEREAS, he was predeceased by his parents, C.E. and Jewel
52 Smith, and his father-in-law, Dan Stewart of Florence. He is
53 survived by his wife, Pam; daughters, Tara (Trey) Clark and Karlie
54 Smith; grandchildren, Adda Laine Pattie, Caroline and Olivia
55 Clark; brothers, Sidney (Becky) Smith and Joe (Jonce') Smith;
56 sisters, Judy Pitts and Becky Smith; aunts, Nell (Jerald) Kennedy
57 and Linda (Stan) Roberts; and many other nieces, nephews and
58 cousins whom he loved dearly. He loved his stepchildren, Robin
59 (Nathan) Renick, Suzanne (Lee) Walker, Karla (Joel) Sarmiento and
60 Nate Anderson, as well as 15 grandchildren; and

61 WHEREAS, Rob Smith leaves a lasting legacy not only in his
62 hometown but throughout all Mississippi. His passion for helping
63 build community throughout his region of the state was unlike any
64 other. He will truly be missed:

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



67 we do hereby commend his life and remember the dedicated public
68 service of Rob Smith, who departed this life on December 16, 2017,
69 and express to his surviving family the sympathy of the
70 Legislature on his passing.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
72 the surviving family of Rob Smith, be forwarded to the South
73 Rankin Rotary Club, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

