

By: Senator(s) Chassaniol, Clarke, Jackson (15th), Younger, Simmons (13th), Simmons (12th), Whaley, Hudson, Jordan, Jackson (11th), Jolly, Barnett, Caughman, Dearing, Fillingane, Hopson, Jackson (32nd) To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 515

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION JOINING THE MISSISSIPPI DELTA
2 AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY IN HONORING GLENDORA PRODUCER MIKE
3 STURDIVANT III UPON HIS RECEIPT OF "MISSISSIPPI'S 2017 SWISHER
4 SWEETS/SUNBELT AG EXPO FARMER OF THE YEAR" AWARD.

5 WHEREAS, publicity was not on the mind of Mike Sturdivant III
6 in 1974 when he began farming, so his response to being named the
7 "2017 Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern Farmer of the
8 Year" for Mississippi was one of surprise. The fifth-generation
9 producer, who grows cotton, corn and soybeans in Glendora, stated,
10 "Our family has never sought the limelight. We just do what we
11 can do and try to do things for others"; and

12 WHEREAS, one resource Sturdivant said has played a constant
13 role in his success is the Mississippi State University Extension
14 Service. The Mississippi State University Delta Research and
15 Extension Center in Stoneville is not far away from Sturdivant's
16 farm, called Due West. "The Extension Service has been
17 instrumental in everything we've done. Whenever we had questions,
18 they had the answers"; and



19 WHEREAS, Due West got its name from being located west of the
20 site Sturdivant's great-great-grandfather moved to in Tallahatchie
21 County in the 1850s. His family moved to the current location 30
22 years later. Mike Sturdivant bought land on his own and managed
23 it before gradually taking over his late father's farming
24 interest. Mike oversees day-to-day operations on the now
25 12,000-acre property, while his brothers, Walker and Sykes, manage
26 the operation's crop-marketing services, grain elevator, and
27 cotton gin; and

28 WHEREAS, the Extension Service has grown variety-trial crops
29 on Sturdivant's land over the years. In the early days, a lot of
30 corn and soybean varieties were developed by Extension. There
31 were different methods with growing corn, and Extension agents and
32 specialists showed what the best practices were. Tallahatchie
33 County Extension Agent Jimbo Burkhalter said Sturdivant is an
34 innovative producer because of his willingness to adapt as
35 crop-production technology evolves. He consults Extension
36 specialists and refers to Extension publications whenever he sees
37 an issue on his land. Burkhalter said Mike Sturdivant believes
38 staying updated on production methods and technology is necessary
39 for survival; and

40 WHEREAS, Mike Sturdivant's wife, Jan, has an Extension tie
41 through her work with 4-H equine programs in Mississippi. A
42 Certified Instructor, she works to make horsemanship programs
43 safer through education. She believes teaching and crop



44 production require similar qualities to maintain success over
45 time; and

46 WHEREAS, Mike Sturdivant has a real gift for leadership and
47 working with people of all backgrounds. He also has very high
48 standards and the energy to reach them. Mike assesses different
49 styles of getting things done and picking one that is going to
50 work the best for his operation; and

51 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and
52 recognize a most public-spirited citizen of Mississippi who is a
53 wonderful example for producers in the State of Mississippi:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
56 we do hereby join the Mississippi Delta Agriculture Community in
57 honoring Glendora Producer Mike Sturdivant III upon his receipt of
58 "Mississippi's 2017 Swisher Sweet/Sunbelt Ag Expo Farmer of the
59 Year" Award, and extend our congratulations to Mike and his family
60 on this high honor.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
62 Mike Sturdivant III and his family, forwarded to the Mississippi
63 Cooperative Extension Service, and made available to the Capitol
64 Press Corps.

