

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Barnett, Bryan,  
Chassaniol, Dearing, Fillingane, Frazier,  
Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 535

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS OF MISSISSIPPI  
2 JOURNALISM LEGEND AND PUBLISHER OF *THE NESHOPA DEMOCRAT* NEWSPAPER  
3 STANLEY DEARMAN.

4 WHEREAS, Stanley Dearman, 84, Editor and Publisher of a  
5 weekly newspaper in Philadelphia, Mississippi, whose editorials  
6 expressing outrage at the 1964 murders of three young Civil Rights  
7 workers helped set the stage for the Mississippi Civil Rights  
8 Movement, passed away on February 25, 2017, and returned to the  
9 red clay soil of Neshoba County. He retired after 34 years of  
10 publishing *The Neshoba Democrat* weekly newspaper in Philadelphia  
11 from 1966 to 2000; and

12 WHEREAS, the retired Editor and Publisher of *The Neshoba*  
13 *Democrat* received the University of Mississippi's highest  
14 journalism award and was recognized in tributes as a legendary  
15 newspaperman who displayed raw courage over a career that spanned  
16 four decades. Dearman received the prestigious Silver Em Award,  
17 joining a distinguished club of noted journalists. The accolade  
18 was Dearman's second prestigious award since his retirement in



19 2000. In 2005, he was inducted into the Mississippi Press  
20 Association Hall of Fame; and

21 WHEREAS, in a eulogy, James E. Prince III, the current Editor  
22 and Publisher of *The Neshoba Democrat*, pointed out how Dearman  
23 stood against one of the fiercest evils of our age, the murders of  
24 three young men registering blacks to vote in 1964, comparing  
25 Dearman to the Old Testament Prophet Habakkuk who was instructed  
26 by the Lord to write plainly about the Lord's goodness in the face  
27 of great evil. "His greatest gift was words," Prince said. "He  
28 was stern and unbending, yet compassionate and kind"; and

29 WHEREAS, Arthur Stanley Dearman was born on July 24, 1932, in  
30 Meridian, Mississippi. He graduated from the University of  
31 Mississippi, where he was Editor of the Student Newspaper. He was  
32 a Reporter and Editor at *The Meridian Star* before joining *The*  
33 *Neshoba Democrat* as a Reporter in the early 1960s, then buying the  
34 paper. In 2007, he received an award from his alma mater for  
35 Journalistic Excellence; and

36 WHEREAS, Mr. Dearman, who was living in retirement in Gulf  
37 Breeze, is survived by his wife, Carolyn; son, Leigh; daughter,  
38 Lisa Daniels; sisters: Ruth Geiger, Sylvia Crowson, Nellah  
39 Prezalor and Mary Ray; and five grandchildren; and

40 WHEREAS, fortunately he lived long enough to see the fruits  
41 of his labor when his beloved hometown of Philadelphia united  
42 across racial lines to bring a significant measure of justice for  
43 the murders of those young men in 1964. This momentous step would



44 not have occurred without this remarkable man. For that,  
45 Mississippi's history should note and recall his heroism in the  
46 face of great danger:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
48 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
49 we do hereby mourn the loss of Mississippi Journalism Legend and  
50 Publisher of *The Neshoba Democrat* Newspaper Stanley Dearman, and  
51 pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this most  
52 public-spirited citizen of Mississippi.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
54 the surviving family of Arthur Stanley Dearman and made available  
55 to the Capitol Press Corps.

