

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Barnett, Blount,  
Jackson (32nd), Norwood, Simmons (12th)

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 550

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF CIVIL  
2 RIGHTS TRAILBLAZER FLONZIE "GOODLOE" BROWN-WRIGHT OF FARMHAVEN AND  
3 CANTON, MISSISSIPPI, THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE ELECTED TO  
4 PUBLIC OFFICE IN MISSISSIPPI SINCE RECONSTRUCTION, AND COMMENDING  
5 HER ADVOCACY.

6 WHEREAS, an advocate for the less fortunate among us and for  
7 equal rights, Flonzie "Goodloe" Brown-Wright, best-selling author,  
8 Civil Rights Trailblazer and native of rural Farmhaven,  
9 Mississippi, is the only daughter of Frank and Little P. Brown.  
10 She and her brothers, Sydney and Frank, Jr., grew up in Canton, 16  
11 miles west of her birthplace. Both parents, brothers and eldest  
12 son, Edward, are deceased. She is the mother of two children,  
13 Cynthia and Lloyd; and

14 WHEREAS, she attended both public and private schools at  
15 Farmhaven and Canton, Mississippi. She received a Fain Fellowship  
16 and attended Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. Special  
17 courses included: Pre-Law, Black History and Political Science.  
18 She graduated from the Institute of Politics at Millsaps College



19 in Jackson and served as Vice President of the institute where she  
20 taught "Grassroots Organizing and Campaign Management"; and

21 WHEREAS, she was inspired to become involved in the  
22 Mississippi Civil Rights Movement in 1963, after the assassination  
23 of Medgar Evers, Field Secretary for the State NAACP. Her  
24 inspiration continues in a myriad of creative community  
25 initiatives across the country, where she lectures and provides  
26 motivational opportunities to a cross section of audiences. Her  
27 appointment to the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
28 (EEOC) as an Investigator was confirmed in 1974. She retired from  
29 the EEOC in 1989 with special citations, including the Chairman's  
30 Service Award, and is a member of New Hope Baptist Church in  
31 Jackson, Mississippi; and

32 WHEREAS, she was the first African-American female in 1968 to  
33 be elected to a public office in Mississippi since and perhaps  
34 pre-Reconstruction. The position of Election Commissioner allowed  
35 her to correct many voting injustices. She appointed and trained  
36 numerous African-Americans to conduct elections, many of whom  
37 still continue to serve; and

38 WHEREAS, in 1994, she authored and published her first book,  
39 *Looking Back to Move Ahead*. In 1999, the publication became a  
40 best seller for an independent author. The book chronicles her  
41 years growing up in a small rural Mississippi town. It also  
42 focuses on the involvement of scores of unrecognized heroes and  
43 sheroes who were similarly involved in the Civil Rights Movement



44 in the 1960s and 1970s in Canton, Madison County and the State of  
45 Mississippi. She knew and worked with Dr. Martin Luther King,  
46 Jr., and many other humanitarian activists, both locally and  
47 nationally. She is the recipient of more than 400 Community  
48 Service Awards, including special honors from LeMoyne College in  
49 Syracuse, New York, and an honor at the Kennedy Center in  
50 Washington, D.C. She is listed in *Who's Who Among Black*  
51 *Americans*, 1994/1995 edition, and is a member of the National  
52 Association of Female Executives. She is among a number of  
53 prestigious African-Americans listed in *Who's Who Among Black*  
54 *Mississippians*; and

55 WHEREAS, she is President and CEO of FBW & Associates,  
56 Incorporated of Jackson, Mississippi, a freelance marketing  
57 consultant firm, and is founder of the Flonzie B. Wright  
58 Scholarship Fund, a fund designed to encourage students to stay in  
59 school. Since its inception, the fund has provided more than  
60 \$40,000.00 in scholarship incentives to many students; and

61 WHEREAS, during the summer of 1997, she participated in  
62 filming a documentary, *Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders*,  
63 sponsored by the University of Mississippi and produced by Sadoff  
64 Productions. This award-winning film focuses on a number of  
65 women, both black and white, who were involved in the Southern  
66 Civil Rights Movement. She and others were honored for this  
67 production at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.  
68 She was featured in the nationally acclaimed *Purpose Magazine*, the



January 1998 edition, and *Tomorrow's South*, the September 1999 edition. In April 1999, she produced a Video Documentary, *And Before I'll Be Your Slave*. This docudrama is a testament to her ancestors and shares many stories which have impacted her life. She is featured and served as an Advisor to Jennifer Cheeks-Collins, also of Canton, in her publication, *Black America Series, Madison County, Mississippi*. In October 2008, she released *Standing Tall in Tough Times* on DVD. Among other interviews, her parents tell of their challenges because of her involvement in Civil Rights. Included also is her August 2008 *Keynote Speech in Dayton, Ohio*, the night President Barack Obama accepted the Democratic Party's Presidential Nomination. From 2005-2010, she served Miami University in Middletown, Ohio, as Student Affairs Scholar in Residence where she co-wrote and taught a new curriculum, "Black Issues in Higher Education." Subsequently, she served the university as an Adjunct Professor. Her credits, memberships and honors are extensive; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, she accepted the appointment as Co-Event Director for the 50th Anniversary of the Mississippi Freedom Riders Reunion. Her excellent skills in assisting with the planning and execution were demonstrated in the success of this historical celebration. She was recently appointed as a Commissioner at Tougaloo College by President Beverly Hogan to assist in promoting the celebration of a number of Civil Rights events culminating in 2014. Even though her travels have been



94 extensive and her achievements many, she simply refers to herself  
95 as "Just a Country Girl from Mississippi who Loves the Lord and  
96 ALL People":

97       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
98 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
99 we do hereby recognize the legacy of Civil Rights Trailblazer  
100 Flonzie "Goodloe" Brown-Wright of Farmhaven and Canton,  
101 Mississippi, the first African-American female elected to public  
102 office in Mississippi since Reconstruction, and commending her  
103 advocacy.

104       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
105 Flonzie Brown-Wright, forwarded to the Mississippi Department of  
106 Archives and History, and made available to the Capitol Press  
107 Corps.

