

By: Senator(s) Blackmon, Jackson (32nd),  
Barnett, Butler, Frazier, Horhn, Jackson  
(11th), Jordan, Norwood, Simmons (12th),  
Turner-Ford, Witherspoon, Blackwell, Burton,  
Clarke, Dearing, DeBar, Hopson, Jackson  
(15th), McMahan

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 558

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ESTEEMED AND LAUDABLE  
2 LEGISLATIVE CAREER AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF THE MOST HONORABLE AND  
3 DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM BOLIVAR, AND CHAIRMAN OF THE  
4 FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INC., (FEED),  
5 SENATOR WILLIE SIMMONS.

6 WHEREAS, the honorable and distinguished gentleman from  
7 Bolivar, Willie Simmons, for the last 25 years has committed  
8 himself to working tirelessly on behalf of the people of  
9 Mississippi and the constituency of Senate District 13, which  
10 includes portions of Bolivar, Sunflower and Tallahatchie Counties,  
11 from the historical floor of the majestically ethereal and  
12 hallowed Senate Chamber; and

13 WHEREAS, on March 20, 1947, in the rural and unassuming  
14 Community of Utica, Mississippi, on the western border of Hinds  
15 County, a giant of a man and visionary leader in the likeness of  
16 Willie Simmons was birthed onto the scene, fashioned from the  
17 proverbial stone of greatness to serve as a pillar of hope and  
18 agent of change for his family and community; and



19           WHEREAS, a notable alumnus of Utica Junior College, Alcorn  
20 State University and Delta State University, Senator Simmons has  
21 employed his shrewd business acumen as owner of Simmons and  
22 Associates Consulting Firm and the Senator's Place Restaurant to  
23 guide the agenda of the Foundation for Education and Economic  
24 Development, Inc., (FEED), as the organization strives to fulfill  
25 each of its established missions and goals for the last 13 years  
26 in the capacity as Chairman; and

27           WHEREAS, as longstanding Chairman of FEED, Senator Simmons  
28 has used the wealth of knowledge and innate prowess as a master  
29 negotiator that he has acquired by virtue of his legislative  
30 career and his affiliations with the National Association of State  
31 Legislators, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, the  
32 Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus, the Mississippi Grammy  
33 Museum, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and the National Alumni  
34 Associations for both Alcorn State University and Delta State  
35 University to position FEED to serve as the benefactor of  
36 Mississippi's Historically Black College and Universities (HBCUs)  
37 to the tune of more than a Quarter Million Dollars; and

38           WHEREAS, upon his election in November 1992 and receiving the  
39 oath of office in January 1993 during his first Legislative  
40 Session, Willie Simmons became the distinguished gentleman from  
41 Bolivar and wasted no time requesting the legislation, amendments  
42 and reports that would help effectuate into law the ideologies and  
43 policy changes that his constituents had elected him to further,



44 and because of his passion and genuine desire to better this great  
45 Magnolia State through his service as Chairman of the Senate  
46 Highways and Transportation Committee, and membership on the  
47 Senate Committees on Agriculture, Appropriations, Corrections,  
48 Ports and Marine Resources, Public Health and Welfare, State  
49 Library, Tourism and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee; and

50 WHEREAS, Senator Simmons' love and deeply felt respect for  
51 the Legislature as a hallowed institution and his zealous  
52 leadership of FEED has led his fight to preserve and nurture its  
53 integrity and improve its outcomes by taking great strides to  
54 advance the direction of the state's economic, educational, social  
55 and political climate, as made prominently evident during the  
56 first year of his FEED Chairmanship in 2005 in the wake of  
57 Hurricane Katrina's harrowing aftermath, when he selflessly sought  
58 to restore a sense of hope in humanity to the countless coastal  
59 residents impacted by the storm by organizing and delivering three  
60 tractor-trailers filled with commodities, clothing and appliances  
61 to Laurel, Hattiesburg and the Gulf Coast, all in the name of  
62 FEED; and

63 WHEREAS, when tornados struck Winston and Holmes Counties,  
64 FEED provided financial assistance by making contributions to the  
65 Tornado Victim Fund, as well as aiding the fundraising efforts for  
66 flood relief in Vicksburg, under Senator Simmons' leadership; and

67 WHEREAS, Senator Simmons' piloting the operations of FEED has  
68 exemplified the benevolence of the cliché, "Charity begins at home



69 and then spread abroad," as FEED's Chairman and Board of Directors  
70 galvanized FEED and organized scores of others to serve as  
71 Mississippi's Goodwill Ambassadors in the Texas trenches after  
72 Hurricane Harvey unleashed its devastation on Houston; and

73 WHEREAS, not one to limit his community involvement solely to  
74 his Legislative responsibilities, Senator Simmons has always been  
75 active in his district and dedicated to improving the quality of  
76 life for all citizens, as he epitomizes the instructions given  
77 Simon Peter by Jesus in John 21:15-17: "So when they had dined,  
78 Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, Son of Jonah, lovest thou me  
79 more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that  
80 I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him  
81 again the second time, Simon, Son of Jonah, lovest thou me? He  
82 saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He  
83 saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time,  
84 Simon, Son of Jonah, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he  
85 said unto him the third time, lovest thou me? And he said unto  
86 him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee.  
87 Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep"; and

88 WHEREAS, Senator Simmons has been feeding his sheep, clothing  
89 his sheep, shepherding his sheep through his leadership of FEED,  
90 which desires to express to him its unmitigated appreciation for  
91 all the people fed during his leadership as the organization's  
92 Chairman; and



93           WHEREAS, while Senator Simmons has been favored with many  
94 opportunities both near and afar, those who have really come to  
95 know his heart know that his first love is paying the gift of  
96 God's bountiful blessing forward without any expectation of  
97 return, in the selfless spirit of a true Good Samaritan; and

98           WHEREAS, both FEED and the Mississippi Legislature cherish  
99 the bond and common goals for the betterment of this great state  
100 shared with the Honorable Senator Willie Simmons, whose impeccable  
101 service remains unparalleled to the State of Mississippi; his  
102 wife, Rose Sibley Simmons; children: Avery, Christopher, Reginald  
103 and Sarita; grandchildren; and to the constituents of Senate  
104 District 13; and

105           WHEREAS, Senator Simmons has led and continues to lead a life  
106 of bravery in the face of challenge, sincerity in the face of  
107 apathy, and honesty in the presence of deceit; and through it all,  
108 this remarkable person has remained a phenomenal gentleman,  
109 grounded in his integrity, who seeks to improve the lives of  
110 others through positive example, hard work and the undeniable  
111 truths of God's word; and

112           WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to honor the  
113 indelible legacy of remarkable service of our Chairman, colleague  
114 and friend, Senator Willie Simmons, who continues to be the  
115 archetype representation of humanitarian leadership in this body  
116 and the people of this state with honor and dignity:



117           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
118 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
119 we do hereby commend the esteemed and laudable legislative career  
120 and public service of this most honorable and distinguished  
121 gentleman from Bolivar, Senator Willie Simmons, and express  
122 fondest respect and best wishes for continued success in all of  
123 his future endeavors.

124           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
125 Senator Willie Simmons, the Foundation for Education and Economic  
126 Development, Inc., (FEED), and made available to the Capitol Press  
127 Corps.

