

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Blount, Hopson,
Dearing, Jackson (11th), Kirby, Norwood,
Simmons (12th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 639

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
2 CIVIC LEADERSHIP OF DR. LEE GARDNER ROYCE AS THE 19TH PRESIDENT OF
3 MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, President Lee Royce will retire in May 2018 after 16
5 extraordinary years serving as Mississippi College's leader. Lee
6 Gardner Royce became Mississippi College's 19th President in July
7 2002, and under his leadership, the Christian University has
8 experienced record enrollment growth, financial success and a
9 construction renaissance; and

10 WHEREAS, the former President of Anderson University in South
11 Carolina, Dr. Royce pursues the institution's vision "to be
12 recognized as a university known for academic excellence and
13 commitment to the cause of Christ"; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce provided extraordinary service as
15 President to strengthen Mississippi College finances, enhance
16 academic programs, oversee dramatic improvement to campus
17 facilities and build the institution's national reputation; and



18 WHEREAS, the Mississippi College budget doubled to \$75.5
19 Million, and enrollment grew from 3,200 to 5,200 students during
20 his tenure; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce served as the Chief Proponent of
22 Mississippi College's Growing the Vision Campaign that raised
23 \$87.4 Million for scholarships, facilities, academic programs and
24 the university endowment; and

25 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce utilized his position as President to
26 strongly support Clinton, the Mississippi College's hometown, and
27 develop solid partnerships with local leaders along with
28 communities across Metro Jackson; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce's notable list of honors included Clinton
30 Citizen of the Year, as well as the Executive of the Year in the
31 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's Southern
32 Region III; and

33 WHEREAS, the Vanderbilt University graduate proved to be an
34 exemplary leader and advocate for Mississippi College within the
35 Mississippi Baptist Convention and in Christian higher education
36 circles across the United States; and

37 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce and his wife, Rhoda, served as tremendous
38 Goodwill Ambassadors and exceptional role models for Mississippi
39 College across the United States and in other countries; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Royce became a stellar member of the
41 university's leadership team making the successful transition for



42 Mississippi College athletics to move to NCAA Division II and the
43 Gulf South Conference; and

44 WHEREAS, the Mississippi College leader has proven to be a
45 tireless leader with United Way of the Capital Area for 16 years.
46 He helped elevate the university's United Way drives to rank the
47 No. 1 institution among Jackson area colleges; and

48 WHEREAS, in 1975, Dr. Royce married Russell Rhoda Royce, a
49 former Editor with *Open Windows* Magazine and other publications
50 with LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist
51 Convention in Nashville. A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Belmont
52 University with a Master's Degree from the University of South
53 Carolina, Rhoda Royce has served as Adjunct Instructor of Business
54 Communications at Mississippi College. The Royces have one son,
55 Mark, a Ph.D. in Political Science and Graduate Teaching Assistant
56 at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia; and

57 WHEREAS, President Lee Royce and his wife, Rhoda, are beloved
58 by Mississippi College faculty, staff, students, alumni, the
59 Clinton community and other friends of the university. The Royces
60 will be sorely missed during their retirement years in Northern
61 Virginia, and it is with great pride that we commend this
62 Christian academic leader whose record of achievement and legacy
63 of leadership and dedication to the citizens of Mississippi brings
64 honor to his college, his community and to our state:

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 recognize the accomplishments and civic leadership of
68 Dr. Lee Gardner Royce, the 19th President of Mississippi College
69 in Clinton, Mississippi, on the occasion of his retirement and
70 extend to Dr. Royce and his family our best wishes for future
71 success.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
73 Dr. Royce, forwarded to the Board of Trustees of Mississippi
74 College, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

