

By: Senator(s) Burton, Barnett, Blackmon, Blackwell, Blount, Branning, Browning, Bryan, Butler, Carmichael, Carter, Caughman, Chassaniol, Clarke, Dawkins, DeBar, Dearing, Doty, Fillingane, Frazier, Gollott, Harkins, Hill, Hopson, Horhn, Hudson, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jolly, Jordan, Kirby, Massey, McDaniel, McMahan, Michel, Moran, Norwood, Parker, Parks, Polk, Seymour, Simmons (12th), Simmons (13th), Tollison, Turner-Ford, Watson, Whaley, Wiggins, Wilemon, Witherspoon, Younger

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 641

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LASTING LEGACY OF
2 RETIRING UNITED STATES SENATOR THAD COCHRAN.

3 WHEREAS, April 1, 2018, will truly be the end of an era in
4 Mississippi politics. That is the day longtime United States
5 Senator and Northeast Mississippi native Thad Cochran will step
6 down from his seat after 46 years representing the Magnolia State
7 in Washington, D.C. Senator Cochran was Chairman of the Senate
8 Appropriations Committee; and

9 WHEREAS, Mississippians owe Senator Cochran a debt of
10 gratitude for his service over the last several decades. For
11 always seeking to make Mississippi a better place for all its
12 residents, we thank Senator Cochran and wish him a long and
13 well-deserved retirement; and

14 WHEREAS, Senator Cochran was first elected to the Senate in
15 1978, becoming the first Republican in more than 100 years to win
16 a statewide election in Mississippi. He is the 10th



17 longest-serving Senator in U.S. history. Senator Cochran was
18 reelected in 2014 to a seventh six-year term that began in January
19 2015 as Chairman of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee,
20 a post he had held briefly in the mid-2000s and was scheduled to
21 continue through 2018. Senator Cochran previously served in the
22 U.S. House of Representatives from 1973-1978 before winning an
23 election to replace longtime Senator James Eastland, who retired.
24 Cochran has a quiet, stately demeanor and is known for playing
25 piano to relax in his office. For many years he drew accolades in
26 Washington, D.C., for working across the aisle to get difficult
27 measures passed, and back home for "bringing home the bacon" to
28 Mississippi. He was responsible for funding numerous projects,
29 including federal programs and aid for farmers, buildings and
30 programs at universities, and funding for local governments and
31 federal contracts at Pascagoula's shipyard and military
32 installations; and

33 WHEREAS, during four decades in Washington, Thad has tended
34 to pay attention to his interests in Mississippi and to leave
35 national politics to others. In Mississippi and other Gulf
36 states, part of Senator Cochran's legacy is his response during
37 Hurricane Katrina. As Chairman of Appropriations when Hurricane
38 Katrina hit in 2005, he used his years of consensus building and
39 working across the aisle to convince a reluctant Congress to
40 provide \$29 Billion in immediate Katrina relief, including an
41 unprecedented \$5 Billion in discretionary HUD Community



42 Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program funds for
43 Mississippi. This allowed the state to provide homeowner grants
44 for rebuilding. The federal relief he helped secure is credited
45 with preventing financial and social ruin in Mississippi and
46 Louisiana after the hurricane's destruction; and

47 WHEREAS, comments from elected officials and community
48 leaders throughout the country showcased the true impact he had on
49 our great state and country:

50 • From Governor Phil Bryant:

51 "One of Mississippi's greatest public servants has shared
52 with me his plans to retire. Senator Cochran's service ushered in
53 an era of unprecedented influence for our state and will benefit
54 generations to come. He was a leader in Washington and a powerful
55 advocate for every Mississippian. I will always be grateful to
56 Senator Cochran for his friendship and support during my time of
57 service. Deborah and I wish him and Kay the very best as they
58 begin this new chapter."

59 • From Lieutenant Governor Tate Reeves:

60 "Senator Cochran's service to our nation has made the lives
61 of Mississippians better, and his support of our military ties
62 made America safer. He fought relentlessly for Mississippi from
63 helping our farmers get their crops to market to fighting for our
64 citizens after Hurricane Katrina devastated much of the state. He
65 earned and maintained the respect of his colleagues on both sides
66 of the aisle even though he never shied away from a battle to



67 protect his beloved state. Elee and I wish Senator Cochran and
68 his family well as they enter this new chapter."

69 • From Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann:

70 "There are no words to describe how important Senator
71 Cochran, a true gentleman and statesman, has been to Mississippi.
72 While he leaves a lasting legacy in agriculture, defense and
73 Hurricane Katrina recovery, and a huge gap in Senate and national
74 leadership, the citizens of Mississippi will experience the
75 largest vacuum in the loss of his public presence and influence on
76 almost every aspect of our personal and political lives. Lynn and
77 I wish him and his family the best in his retirement and welcome
78 him home. Job well done."; and

79 WHEREAS, quiet, thoughtful, extremely intelligent, and
80 possessed of that rare ability to disagree agreeably, Thad Cochran
81 broke the mold of loud, bellicose Southern demagogues and
82 effectively conducted his 46 years of service for the people of
83 Mississippi on Capitol Hill as what *Time Magazine* cogently called
84 in 2006 "the quiet persuader"; and

85 WHEREAS, Senator Cochran was a workhorse. He kept up a
86 schedule that colleagues decades later would not attempt. With a
87 schedule broken up into 15-to-30-minute increments, depending on
88 the time of the year, the Senator prioritized meeting personally
89 with everyone who requested a meeting. He believed if someone
90 traveled to Washington, D.C., from Hernando or Pascagoula,
91 Clarksdale or Meridian, it might be their only trip and they



92 should be able to talk to their elected representatives. While he
93 might be scheduled to meet with cabinet secretaries or foreign
94 leaders, Senator Cochran has been more interested in hearing from
95 families, farmers, educators and local officials on issues that
96 affect them, issues as varied as juvenile diabetes to roads and
97 bridges that are vital for their communities; and

98 WHEREAS, Thad Cochran leaves a lasting legacy not only in his
99 hometown but throughout all Mississippi. His passion for helping
100 build community throughout this region was unlike any other. He
101 will truly be missed:

102 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
103 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
104 we do hereby recognize the lasting legacy of United States Senator
105 Thad Cochran on the occasion of his retirement, and extend to
106 Senator Cochran and his family continued success and happiness in
107 his retirement.

108 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
109 U.S. Senator Thad Cochran, transmitted to the President of the
110 United States, the Vice President of the United States, the
111 President Pro Tempore of the United States Senate and the Governor
112 of the State of Mississippi, and made available to the Capitol
113 Press Corps.

