

By: Senator(s) Gollott,  
Chassaniol, Carmichael, Clarke,  
Dearing, Frazier, Jackson (32nd),  
Jordan, Parker, Seymour, Jackson  
(11th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 506

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE  
2 LEGISLATURE TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF FORMER BILOXI  
3 MAYOR AND MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST CIVIC LEADER A.J. HOLLOWAY, JR.,  
4 AND COMMENDING HIS LEGACY.

5 WHEREAS, we join the citizens of the Mississippi Gulf Coast  
6 in paying tribute to the memory of former Biloxi Mayor and  
7 Mississippi Gulf Coast Civic Leader A.J. Holloway, Jr., (79) who  
8 passed away on June 5, 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, A.J. Holloway oversaw an unprecedented number of  
10 quality-of-life improvements during his unprecedented 22 years as  
11 Biloxi's Mayor. He was elected to the City Council in 1989 and  
12 elected Mayor in 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, 2009, and 2013, before  
13 retiring in 2015; and

14 WHEREAS, Holloway became Mayor a year after casino gaming was  
15 legalized. The industry re-energized the local economy, creating  
16 15,000 jobs, generating \$6 Billion Dollars in development,  
17 boosting the number of annual visitors to the community from one  
18 million a year to eight to ten million a year, and accounting for  
19 billions in new revenue; and



20           WHEREAS, Mayor Holloway tripled the size of the Biloxi Police  
21 and Fire Departments. He called them the "best-trained,  
22 best-equipped and best-paid police and fire departments you'll  
23 find." He built a \$10 Million Dollar Lopez-Quave Public Safety  
24 Center and new fire stations in East Biloxi, North Biloxi and  
25 Eagle Point; abolished fees for youth sports leagues and oversaw  
26 the construction of the Donal M. Snyder Sr. Community Center, the  
27 renovation and expansion of the Biloxi Community Center, and the  
28 construction of an 80-acre sports complex in North Biloxi that  
29 would later bear his name; and

30           WHEREAS, during Holloway's tenure, four new public schools  
31 were built, including a state-of-the-art high school, an \$80  
32 Million Dollar investment in public education; tens of millions  
33 were invested in new municipal facilities such as police and fire  
34 stations, libraries, community centers, parks, playgrounds and  
35 ball fields; new roads were built and decade-old roads were  
36 rebuilt; and residents throughout the city saw their property tax  
37 rate drop by 50 percent; and

38           WHEREAS, the mayor also tapped into state and federal revenue  
39 for major projects. He and the late Delmar Robinson, whom  
40 Holloway had appointed years earlier as Chairman of the Biloxi  
41 Housing Authority, worked with Senator Trent Lott, then Senate  
42 Majority Leader, to establish the \$35 Million Dollar Hope VI  
43 Affordable Housing Initiative in East Biloxi. The townhome



44 developments replaced barracks-style housing that had been  
45 constructed generations earlier; and

46 WHEREAS, the mayor successfully lobbied then-Governor Kirk  
47 Fordice to have the state transform the derelict Howard Memorial  
48 Hospital on Back Bay into the Department of Marine Resources and  
49 other state agencies. He also successfully lobbied the state for  
50 assistance on major road projects, such as the widening of  
51 Caillavet Street, which was part of a massive street improvement  
52 project that saw the widening of Cedar Lake Road and Popp's Ferry  
53 Road, and the construction of Back Bay Boulevard; and

54 WHEREAS, as Biloxi entered the 21st Century, the City was  
55 enjoying the most prosperous time in its 300-year history until  
56 August 29, 2005, when Hurricane Katrina, the worst natural  
57 disaster to ever strike the United States, decimated Biloxi and  
58 surrounding communities. Katrina claimed 6,000 of 25,000 homes  
59 and businesses in Biloxi, and more than 15,000 citizens were left  
60 without jobs in the gaming industry alone. Holloway's staunchly  
61 conservative nature and small-business upbringing were steadfast  
62 before and after the storm. He marshaled city departments and  
63 used state and federal aid in clearing the city of debris during  
64 the days after the storm. Mayor Holloway initiated a long-term  
65 recovery program. Six months after the storm, Holloway announced  
66 the "Reviving the Renaissance" initiative, prompting nearly 200  
67 residents to step forward to help craft a blueprint to guide the



68 city's rebuilding efforts in a way that recaptures the successes  
69 of the past; and

70 WHEREAS, Holloway said in 2004 and again in 2007: "Future  
71 generations are going to look back on this chapter in our history  
72 as a time when we made the right decisions, when we cherished and  
73 protected our culture, and we did things to improve and enhance  
74 our quality of life. They're going to see this as an historic  
75 time. We were on the right track before this storm, and we're  
76 going to stay on the right track"; and

77 WHEREAS, the challenges of a post-Katrina Biloxi may define  
78 Holloway's public service career, which began with the Biloxi  
79 Public Schools, where he served as Business Manager for six years.  
80 He also served at the Mississippi State Tax Commission for 12  
81 years and attained the position of Senior Revenue Agent. He was  
82 later elected to the Biloxi City Council serving one term before  
83 being elected Mayor of Biloxi in 1993. Holloway was a high school  
84 football hero, a fierce competitor on the field, and was later  
85 said to have thrown a punch that led to the longtime cancellation  
86 of the Biloxi-Gulfport football rivalry. Holloway parlayed his  
87 high school year into a scholarship at the University of  
88 Mississippi, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education. At  
89 the same time, he excelled in athletics, having played in two  
90 Sugar Bowls and a Cotton Bowl while at Ole Miss and on the 1960  
91 Rebels National Championship Football Team. Holloway brought that  
92 winning spirit to City Hall as Councilman and later as Mayor,



93 promising fiscally conservative leadership and responsible  
94 government; and

95 WHEREAS, Holloway was preceded in death by his parents,  
96 Andrew Joseph Holloway, Sr., and Iris Letort Holloway. He is  
97 survived by his wife of 56 years, Macklyn Holloway; his children,  
98 Heather Holloway (John Radicia) and Jeff Holloway; his  
99 grandchildren: Destin Holloway, Jordan Holloway, Hannah Radicia  
100 and Abigail Radicia; his sister, Dale Steckler; and brothers,  
101 Donnie Holloway and Kenny Holloway; and

102 WHEREAS, we are saddened by this loss, and we pay tribute and  
103 cherish fondly the memory of this most public-spirited citizen of  
104 the Mississippi Gulf Coast, whose enormous civic energy will be  
105 missed:

106 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
107 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
108 we do hereby extend the condolences of the Legislature to the  
109 bereaved family and friends of former Biloxi Mayor and Mississippi  
110 Gulf Coast Civic Leader A.J. Holloway, Jr., and commend his  
111 legacy.

112 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted  
113 to the surviving family of Mayor Holloway, forwarded to Biloxi  
114 Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich and the Biloxi City Council, and made  
115 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

