

By: Senator(s) Burton,
Blackwell, Blount, Branning,
Browning, Carmichael,
Caughman, Chassaniol,
Clarke, Dawkins, DeBar,
Dearing, Doty, Fillingane,
Frazier, Gollott, Harkins,
Hopson, Horhn, Jackson
(11th), Jackson (15th),
Jackson (32nd), Jordan,
Kirby, Massey, McMahan,
Michel, Norwood, Parker,
Polk, Seymour, Simmons
(12th), Simmons (13th),
Watson, Whaley, Wiggins, Wilemon, Witherspoon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 509

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND REMEMBERING
2 THE MILITARY, CIVIC AND DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE OF UNITED STATES
3 SENATOR JOHN SIDNEY MCCAIN, III, AND EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE ON HIS PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, it is with extreme sadness that we note the passing
6 of the senior United States Senator from Arizona and former
7 nominee for President in the 2008 election, John Sidney McCain,
8 III, who passed away on August 25, 2018; and

9 WHEREAS, born on August 29, 1936, in Panama -- a U.S.
10 protectorate at the time -- McCain hailed from a distinguished
11 naval family. Both his father and grandfather, who he was named
12 after, were Admirals in the United States Navy; and

13 WHEREAS, following in their footsteps, McCain enrolled in the
14 United States Naval Academy, which he attended from 1954 until
15 1958, and after graduation, he embarked on a career as a Naval
16 Aviator, flying dozens of bombing missions during the Vietnam War;
17 and



18 WHEREAS, on a raid over Hanoi on October 26, 1967, McCain's
19 plane was struck by a missile, forcing him to eject, and breaking
20 both his arms and a leg. He was held by the North Vietnamese as a
21 prisoner of war for 5-1/2 years, more than two of those years
22 spent in solitary confinement; and

23 WHEREAS, when offered a chance at early release, McCain
24 refused to be repatriated before other American detainees who had
25 been held longer than he, out of respect for the POW Code of
26 Conduct; and

27 WHEREAS, among the military medals McCain earned were three
28 Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, two Legion of Merit Awards, a
29 Silver Star, and the Distinguished Flying Cross; and

30 WHEREAS, McCain retired from the Navy in 1981, moving to
31 Arizona, and was elected to the United States House of
32 Representatives, where he served two terms before setting his
33 sights on the U.S. Senate, which he joined in 1987 and to which he
34 won easily re-election five times (most recently in 2016); and

35 WHEREAS, Senator McCain first earned a reputation as a
36 maverick in 2000, when he ran an insurgent campaign to become the
37 Republican nominee for President. The little-known Senator from
38 Arizona's compelling past as a POW and calls for political reform
39 appealed to moderate and independent voters. He ended his
40 candidacy, however, after two major defeats in the primaries,
41 paving the way for then Texas Governor George W. Bush to win the
42 White House; and



43 WHEREAS, in 2008, Senator McCain made a second attempt at the
44 White House, becoming the Republican nominee but losing the
45 popular vote to Democrat Barack Obama, 53% to 46%; and

46 WHEREAS, in Congress, Senator McCain emerged as a powerful
47 new Republican voice, one that wasn't afraid of challenging his
48 party. He was a pro-business conservative, free-market advocate
49 and abortion foe, and made election campaign finance reform a
50 signature concern; and

51 WHEREAS, long before he entered a career in politics, Senator
52 McCain established a Mississippi connection when he spent 2-1/2
53 years as a Flight Instructor at the Naval Air Station in Meridian
54 in the 1960s. His grandfather, John S. McCain, Sr., was also born
55 in Carroll County, Mississippi, and attended Ole Miss for two
56 years before attending the United States Naval Academy; and

57 WHEREAS, in 2016, Senator McCain said in a telephone
58 interview that he had wonderful memories of the people in Meridian
59 and Lauderdale County, and was honored to have served as an
60 Instructor at the airfield that was named in memory of his
61 grandfather; and

62 WHEREAS, Senator McCain died Saturday, August 25, 2018, after
63 battling brain cancer for more than a year, and is survived by his
64 wife, Cindy; his seven children; and five grandchildren. While he
65 has departed this earth, his worldly impact on his friends, family
66 and fellow countrymen will never be forgotten:



67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
68 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
69 we do hereby honor the military, civic and dedicated public
70 service of United States Senator John Sidney McCain, III, and
71 extend the condolences of the Legislature to his surviving family
72 on his passing.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
74 to the surviving family of Senator McCain and made available to
75 the Capitol Press Corps.

