

By: Senator(s) Younger, Burton, Bryan, Dearing, Gollott To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE LIFE AND
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER STATE SENATOR AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE
3 DR. WILLIAM "BILL" CANON OF COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING
4 THE SYMPATHY OF THE SENATE.

5 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the State of Mississippi lost a
6 friend, colleague and enlightened lawmaker with the death of
7 former State Senator and State Representative Dr. William W.
8 (Bill) Canon of Columbus, Mississippi, on July 28, 2018. At the
9 time of Senator Canon's retirement in 2003 he was the "Dean of the
10 Senate"; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Canon was born on December 31, 1930, in Vaiden,
12 Mississippi, to the late Jesse Lee Canon and Marilla Vail Canon.
13 His parents operated a farm, where he resided during his childhood
14 years. Dr. Canon was active in the Boy Scouts and in the 4-H
15 Club. He was a National 4-H Club winner and an Eagle Scout. Dr.
16 Canon was President of the Vaiden Club and also served as
17 President of the Junior County Council. Dr. Canon graduated from
18 Vaiden High School in 1948 and entered Mississippi State
19 University. He finished pre-veterinary work in 1950 and spent the



20 next four years at Auburn University obtaining his Doctor of
21 Veterinary Medicine Degree in 1954. Dr. Canon interned at the
22 William Greene Animal Clinic in Nashville, Tennessee, and
23 practiced there for a year after graduating from Auburn. He moved
24 to Memphis, Tennessee, and worked with Belview Animal Clinic in
25 1956. In 1956, Dr. Canon entered the United States Department of
26 Agriculture in the Poultry Inspection Division. He entered active
27 duty with the United States Air Force in 1957 and later entered
28 the Air Force Reserve serving as a Lieutenant Colonel, Staff
29 Officer and Liaison Officer to the Veterinary Department at
30 Mississippi State University; and

31 WHEREAS, Dr. Canon married Maxine Godwin Buckingham in 1959
32 having met at Columbus Air Force Base and moved to Washington
33 State. He moved back to Columbus in 1960 with his wife and two
34 children, Margie Canon and Linda Margaret Buckingham Durand. In
35 June 1960, Dr. Canon became associated with the veterinary
36 practice of Dr. E.C. Bozeman in Columbus, Mississippi. Doctors
37 S.E. Wilcox (Auburn 1972) and Cecil Boswell (Auburn 1976) were
38 later associates in the practice; and

39 WHEREAS, Dr. Canon had been active in the Mississippi
40 Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) since his graduation from
41 Veterinary College. He served as President of MVMA from
42 1983-1984. In 1989, he received the Veterinarian of the Year
43 Award; and



44 WHEREAS, from 1976 to 1979, Dr. Canon served in the
45 Mississippi House of Representatives. In 1979, he was elected to
46 the Mississippi State Senate. Dr. Canon retired from the
47 Legislature in 2003; and

48 WHEREAS, Senator Canon was appointed to the Joint Legislative
49 Audit Committee (PEER Committee) in December 1990, served as
50 Chairman, Vice Chairman or Secretary of this legislative
51 investigative group for 10 of the 12 years he served, and was the
52 only legislator elected as Chairman of the PEER Committee four
53 times in the 30-year history of the committee. As Chairman,
54 Senator Canon guided the PEER Committee through deliberations on
55 wide-ranging subjects. Through it all, Senator Canon never missed
56 an opportunity to enliven the most serious debate with his
57 boundless wit and charm; and

58 WHEREAS, Senator Canon was former Chairman of the Senate
59 Public Utilities Committee, the Senate Highways and Transportation
60 Committee and the Senate County Affairs Committee; and in his many
61 years in the Senate, he served with distinction on practically
62 every Senate Committee, this committee experience representing
63 substantial legislative influence; and

64 WHEREAS, Senator Canon was particularly knowledgeable of
65 health licensure issues, utilizing his professional background,
66 and was responsible for handling numerous licensure bills in the
67 Senate Public Health Committee. He was a champion of open
68 government, consistently expressing the belief that fees on the



69 public for governmental services were no different than taxes and
70 should be considered as such; and

71 WHEREAS, Senator Canon was the backbone of church, civic and
72 economic development efforts across his district; was a Methodist,
73 Mason, Shriner, Odd Fellow and ATO; and was active in the American
74 Veterinary Medical Association, the Mississippi State University
75 Alumni Association, Kiwanis, the Columbus-Lowndes Chamber of
76 Commerce, and the Air Force Association; and

77 WHEREAS, Dr. Canon is survived by his daughters, Marjorie
78 "Margie" Canon of Columbus, Mississippi, and Linda Margaret Durand
79 of Greenwood, Mississippi; and grandchild, Robin Durand of New
80 Orleans, Louisiana; and

81 WHEREAS, Senator Canon served with distinction and the
82 members of the Legislature will miss his humor, experience,
83 constructive leadership and friendship, and we wish to express
84 sincere appreciation to Senator Canon's family for sharing him
85 with us:

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
87 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby mourn the loss and commend the life
88 and public service of former State Senator and State
89 Representative Dr. William "Bill" Canon of Columbus, Mississippi,
90 and express to his surviving family the sympathy of the Senate on
91 his passing.



92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
93 the surviving family of former Senator and Representative Bill
94 Canon and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

