

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE TO THE
2 BEREAVED FAMILY OF RETIRED THIRD DISTRICT CIRCUIT JUDGE HENRY
3 LACKEY FROM CALHOUN CITY, MISSISSIPPI, AND RECOGNIZING HIS
4 PROFESSIONAL LEGACY.

5 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of
6 retired Third District Circuit Judge Henry Lackey (83) of Calhoun
7 City, Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, Judge Lackey served for 17 years as Circuit Judge of
9 the Third Judicial District. He served on the Judicial
10 Disciplinary Commission on Judicial Performance for six years, and
11 was Chairman at the time he retired in December 2010; and

12 WHEREAS, he left his mark on the judiciary with an unwavering
13 commitment to judicial integrity. Mississippi Supreme Court Chief
14 Justice Bill Waller, Jr., said, "He was one of the most
15 outstanding Jurists in the history of the state. His courageous
16 acts in an investigation were done without regard to his health
17 and safety, for the preservation of the integrity of the
18 judiciary. He was one of my heroes"; and



19 WHEREAS, Governor Kirk Fordice appointed Judge Lackey to the
20 Third Circuit District of Benton, Calhoun, Chickasaw, Lafayette,
21 Marshall, Tippah and Union Counties in 1993. He was elected four
22 times without opposition. Judge Lackey continued his judicial
23 service after he retired from the Circuit Court bench. Six days
24 after his last term ended, he signed up as a Senior Status Judge.
25 For seven more years, he heard cases around the state by
26 appointment of the Supreme Court, taking over for judges who
27 stepped aside due to conflicts. He handled 45 cases as a Senior
28 Status Judge; and

29 WHEREAS, Judge Henry Lackey grew up in Calhoun City, and
30 graduated from Calhoun City High School in 1952. He earned a
31 Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from
32 Mississippi College in 1956. He paid a large portion of his
33 tuition by working part-time for Deposit Guaranty National Bank
34 while he was a student, and from his childhood savings. When he
35 was in elementary and high school, he ran his popcorn popper at
36 his father's Ben Franklin Five and Ten-Cent Store in Calhoun City.
37 After earning his undergraduate degree, he went home to run the
38 family business after his father passed away. Henry enrolled in
39 law school immediately after he left the Army in 1962, and
40 graduated from the University of Mississippi School of Law in
41 1966. He was soon elected Calhoun County Prosecuting Attorney,
42 where he served a four-year term; and



43 WHEREAS, Judge Lackey accepted an appointment for a year as
44 the state's first Public Defender. Judge Soggy Sweat oversaw the
45 pilot program at the University of Mississippi School of Law.
46 Lackey and three senior law students represented indigent
47 defendants in the seven counties of the Third Circuit District.
48 The pilot program helped lay the groundwork for the Legislature to
49 give counties authority to designate funds for public defenders;
50 and

51 WHEREAS, he returned to private law practice in Calhoun City
52 and served as Board Attorney for the Calhoun County Board of
53 Supervisors for eight years. He was a solo practitioner for 26
54 years, representing every kind of case that came through his door;
55 and

56 WHEREAS, Judge Lackey was a member of The Mississippi Bar for
57 52 years, having been admitted to the practice of law on August
58 21, 1966. He was a former President of the Calhoun County Bar
59 Association and The Third Circuit Bar Association. He was a
60 Fellow of the Mississippi Bar Foundation, and was the recipient of
61 numerous honors and awards. He was the 2008 recipient of the
62 Supreme Court's Chief Justice Award, and in 2009 he was honored by
63 Mississippi College as Alumnus of the Year. Judge Lackey
64 previously served on the Board of Trustees of Mississippi College;
65 and

66 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of 60 years, retired
67 Music Teacher Helen Rose James Lackey of Calhoun City, and son,



68 Kevin Lackey of Ridgeland, Director of the Administrative Office
69 of Courts; and

70 WHEREAS, Judge Lackey served as leader and mentor. He
71 consistently lectured on professional standards of the practice,
72 including ethics, integrity, civility, courtesy and adherence to
73 the Golden Rule. Judge Lackey's life honored both The Mississippi
74 Bar and this great state that he loved and he will be missed:

75 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
76 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the condolences of the
77 Senate to the bereaved family of retired Third District Circuit
78 Judge Henry Lackey from Calhoun City, Mississippi, and recognize
79 his professional legacy.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
81 the surviving family of Judge Henry Lackey, forwarded to The
82 Mississippi Bar, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

