

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Harkins, Caughman,
Blackwell, Browning, Burton, Chassaniol,
Clarke, Dearing, DeBar, Fillingane, Frazier,
Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jolly,
Massey, McMahan, Michel, Parker

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 507

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION AND
2 CONGRATULATIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO REPRESENTATIVE
3 RAY ROGERS (DISTRICT 61) ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 55TH ANNIVERSARY
4 AND RETIREMENT AS THE "VOICE OF THE PEARL PIRATES."

5 WHEREAS, Representative Ray Rogers, who has served as the
6 Public Address Announcer at Pearl High School football games for
7 55 years, stepped down when the Pirates' ended their 2018 season;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Ray Rogers (District 61) was the
10 first Pearl "Pirate" quarterback and is the namesake of "Ray
11 Rogers Stadium" on the campus of Pearl High School; and

12 WHEREAS, Rogers' connections to the Pearl High School
13 football program are lengthy and strong. When Pearl High formed
14 its first football team in 1949, Rogers was a junior. In the
15 summer of 1948, the future student body of Pearl High School
16 assembled in what was to be the gym of their new school, now the
17 old Pearl High School. They met to vote on the colors and mascot.
18 One person of the student body suggested a "Pirate" mascot and the
19 vote was unanimous; the colors were to be navy blue and old gold.



20 Ray Rogers, who is today "The Voice of the Pirates" and then a
21 sophomore at Pearl High School, was part of this group. The next
22 school year, the Pirates had their first football season. With a
23 difficult ten-game schedule and players with little experience,
24 Ray Rogers led the "Fighting Pirates" as quarterback and captain
25 through Pearl's first football season. With Brandon as their last
26 game, a rivalry was started which would stay for more than a
27 half-century. Since the 1940s, Pearl High School has upheld a
28 tradition of excellence; and

29 WHEREAS, Ray took the first snap in Pearl history during a
30 20-0 win over Bentonia. He met his wife, Shirley, in high school,
31 and they married her senior year. Rogers also helped pick Pearl's
32 mascot and the school's colors, navy blue and gold. Both came
33 from a tattoo; and

34 WHEREAS, Ray has been dedicated to the history and spirit of
35 Pearl High School since his days as a student and football player.
36 He has not missed a game in 35 years and only missed one-half of a
37 home game and one away game in 50 years, including the day of his
38 daughter's wedding where he wore earphones to keep up with the
39 progress of the Pearl v. Meridian game (Pearl won); and

40 WHEREAS, Rogers was selected to the All-State Team his senior
41 season when the Pirates went 6-3. An outstanding all-around
42 athlete, he played professional baseball in the minor league for
43 six years in the old Cotton States League before he settled down
44 to work and raise his family with his wife of 66 years, Shirley.



45 Even then, Rogers' desire to compete continued. He played
46 semi-pro baseball eight years, and in 1985 was inducted into the
47 Mississippi Semi-Pro Baseball Hall of Fame; and

48 WHEREAS, Representative Rogers became the Public Address
49 Announcer at Pearl High football games in 1964 because of his
50 distinctive voice. In addition to announcing at the football
51 games, Rogers also introduced the Pearl High School Band at
52 halftimes. When the Pirates travelled to the away games, Ray and
53 Shirley went. They travelled all over the state, from Tupelo to
54 D'Iberville, and from Meridian to Vicksburg. Just before
55 halftime, Ray would walk from the visitors' side to the press box
56 on the home team side, introduce the Pearl Marching Band and then
57 return to the visitors' side; and

58 WHEREAS, when Pearl won its first football State Title last
59 year, the Pirates presented Rogers with a Championship Ring and a
60 helmet signed by every member of the team. It now rests above his
61 fireplace. John Perry, Pearl Pirates' Head Football Coach pinned
62 a photo behind his desk of him and Rogers from the postgame
63 celebration; and

64 WHEREAS, in the past 55 years, thousands of players, band
65 members and fans in the stands heard the "Voice of the Pirates"
66 describe the action; and

67 WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the legacy of this
68 most public-spirited member of the Mississippi Legislature whose
69 enormous civic energy for his home community is the fabric of



70 Pearl High School and Pearl and brings honor to the State of
71 Mississippi:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
73 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
74 we do hereby extend the recognition and congratulations of the
75 Mississippi Legislature to Representative Ray Rogers (District 61)
76 on the occasion of his 55th Anniversary and retirement as the
77 "Voice of the Pearl Pirates."

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
79 Ray Rogers and his family, to Pearl High School on the occasion of
80 Ray's retirement, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

