

By: Senator(s) Burton, Blackwell, Blount,  
Branning, Browning, Carmichael, Caughman,  
Chassaniol, Clarke, Dawkins, DeBar,  
Fillingane, Frazier, Gollott, Harkins,  
Hopson, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd),  
Jolly, Jordan, Kirby, Massey, McMahan,  
Parker, Polk, Seymour, Turner-Ford, Watson,  
Whaley, Wiggins, Wilemon, Witherspoon,  
Younger, Barnett

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 508

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND REGRET AND  
2 SORROW OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE ON LEARNING OF THE DEATH OF  
3 GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH, THE 41ST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
4 STATES OF AMERICA, AND EXTENDING THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE  
5 MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT IN THEIR  
6 BEREAVEMENT.

7 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature and the citizens of the  
8 State of Mississippi have learned with profound regret and sorrow  
9 of the death of George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st President of the  
10 United States of America; and

11 WHEREAS, the members of the Mississippi Legislature wish to  
12 tender their deep sympathy to the family of the former President  
13 in their bereavement; and

14 WHEREAS, George H.W. Bush, the 41st President of the United  
15 States and the father of the 43rd President George W. Bush, was a  
16 steadfast force on the international stage for decades, from his  
17 position as an Envoy to Beijing to his eight years as Vice  
18 President and his one term as Commander in Chief from 1989 to  
19 1993; and



20 WHEREAS, the last Veteran of World War II to serve as  
21 President, he was a consummate public servant and a statesman who  
22 helped guide the nation and the world out of a four-decade Cold  
23 War that had carried the threat of nuclear annihilation; and

24 WHEREAS, his death, at 94 on November 30, 2018, marked the  
25 passing of an era; and

26 WHEREAS, President Bush's greatest accomplishment was sorting  
27 out the Cold War after President Reagan won it. Mr. Bush reached  
28 the Oval Office under the sharply defined shadow of Ronald Reagan,  
29 a one-time rival whom he had served as Vice President. No  
30 president before had arrived with his breadth of experience:  
31 decorated Navy Pilot, successful Oil Executive, Congressman,  
32 United Nations Delegate, Republican Party Chairman, Envoy to  
33 Beijing, and Director of Central Intelligence. Over the course of  
34 a single term that began January 20, 1989, Mr. Bush found himself  
35 at the helm of the world's only remaining superpower. The Berlin  
36 Wall fell, the Soviet Union ceased to exist, the Communist Bloc in  
37 Eastern Europe broke up, and the Cold War ended; and

38 WHEREAS, George Herbert Walker Bush was born in Milton,  
39 Massachusetts, on June 12, 1924. He grew up in Greenwich,  
40 Connecticut, the second of five children of Prescott Bush and the  
41 former Dorothy Walker. His father had insisted that privilege  
42 carried a responsibility to "put something back in, do something,  
43 and help others." His time to serve came on his 18th birthday  
44 when he enlisted in the Navy, and within a year, he received his



45 wings and became one of the youngest pilots in the service. Sent  
46 to the Pacific, he flew torpedo bombers off the aircraft carrier  
47 *San Jacinto*. On September 2, 1944, his plane was hit by Japanese  
48 groundfire during a bombing run on Chichi Jima in the Bonin  
49 Islands in the Western Pacific. He pressed the attack even though  
50 his plane was aflame. Mr. Bush bailed out over the ocean and was  
51 rescued by a submarine. His two crewmen were killed. The future  
52 President was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. After the  
53 war, he went to Yale, where he was captain of the baseball team  
54 and his wife Barbara took their baby son, George W., to the games.  
55 In 1948, following his graduation, he moved to Texas to go into  
56 the oil business; and

57 WHEREAS, Mr. Bush began his political career as Chairman of  
58 the Harris County Republican Party at a time when being a  
59 Republican in Texas was as much an electoral liability as having  
60 Northeastern roots. In 1966, after selling his interest in his  
61 oil company, Mr. Bush was elected to the first of two terms in  
62 Congress from a House district in Houston. After Mr. Bush's 1970  
63 Senate defeat, there came a rapid progression of high-profile jobs  
64 that began when Nixon named him Ambassador to the United Nations.  
65 In 1973 and 1974, Mr. Bush served as Chairman of the Republican  
66 National Committee during the waning days of the Watergate scandal  
67 that would result in Nixon's resignation. After former Georgia  
68 Governor Jimmy Carter defeated President Ford in the 1976  
69 presidential election, Mr. Bush returned to private life and began



70 preparing for a run for President. Mr. Bush served as the 43rd  
71 Vice President of the United States from January 20, 1981, to  
72 January 20, 1989. Mr. Bush won the 1988 Presidential election  
73 with 53% of the vote. He carried 40 states and received 426  
74 electoral votes. He was the first sitting Vice President elected  
75 to the nation's highest office since Martin Van Buren succeeded  
76 Andrew Jackson in 1837; and

77 WHEREAS, as President, Mr. Bush worked long hours and had a  
78 penchant for detail. Mr. Bush espoused generally conservative  
79 economic and social programs: lower taxes, regulatory reform,  
80 more support for commercial development and access to foreign  
81 markets. Mr. Bush supported voluntary prayer in public schools  
82 and adoption rather than abortion. He also supported gun owners'  
83 rights; and

84 WHEREAS, it is not possible to appreciate the signature  
85 foreign policy achievements that occurred on Mr. Bush's watch  
86 without viewing them in the context of the four decades that  
87 preceded them. In the era after World War II, the United States  
88 sought to contain Soviet influence around the world. The nation  
89 fought divisive and demoralizing wars in Korea and Vietnam and  
90 headed the NATO Alliance. Within a year of Mr. Bush's  
91 inauguration, the international situation changed almost beyond  
92 recognition. Mr. Bush approached the changing world with a view  
93 that was pragmatic rather than ideological; and



94       WHEREAS, as the 1992 presidential election approached, the  
95       attention of the American public was turning homeward. He made  
96       two appearances in Mississippi in 1992 to reestablish his base in  
97       our state. Mr. Bush had promised a "kinder, gentler" America. He  
98       signed into law the Americans With Disabilities Act, a broad Civil  
99       Rights measure that prohibited discrimination in employment,  
100      public services and public accommodations on the basis of physical  
101      or mental disability. Among his other accomplishments were  
102      far-reaching amendments to the Clean Air Act that had been stalled  
103      in Congress for years; and

104      WHEREAS, in 1988, Mr. Bush gave a list of the qualities he  
105      most cherished: "family, kids, grandkids, love, decency, honor,  
106      pride, tolerance, hope, kindness, loyalty, freedom, caring, heart,  
107      faith, service to country, fair play, strength, healing, and  
108      excellence." Mr. Bush viewed his family as part of his legacy.  
109      He was intensely proud of the sons who followed him into public  
110      service. George and Barbara had six children: George W. Bush,  
111      Jeb Bush, Neil Bush, Marvin Bush and Dorothy Bush Koch. A  
112      daughter, Pauline Robinson "Robin" Bush, died of leukemia in 1953,  
113      two months before her fourth birthday. Her parents considered her  
114      death the greatest sorrow they ever experienced. In the years  
115      after the White House, Mr. Bush wrote his memoirs and divided his  
116      time between Houston and the family compound in Kennebunkport,  
117      Maine, where he was a Vestryman of St. Ann's Episcopal Church. He



chose College Station, the home of Texas A&M University, as the site of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum; and

WHEREAS, George Herbert Walker Bush and Mississippi Congressman Gillespie V. "Sonny" Montgomery were both elected to Congress on November 8, 1966, and both took office on January 3, 1967. Unknown to either of them at the time, it was the beginning of a long and meaningful friendship. As freshmen in Congress, central Mississippi's Montgomery, the Democrat, and southeast Texan Bush, the Republican, became fast friends. Bush gave a speech in Meridian at Peavey Electronics on December 3, 1991, on his economic policies, globalization and trade. Peavey's thriving sound equipment business was trading with 103 countries and was a perfect backdrop for his policies in Montgomery's hometown. Bush was a Commencement Speaker at Mississippi State University in May 1989, and later returned to Mississippi State University to honor Congressman Sonny Montgomery at halftime of the Mississippi State University-Arkansas game in November 2000. From their paddle-ball competition in the House gym in 1967, who could have known that both men would ultimately receive Presidential Medals of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor; and

WHEREAS, President George H.W. Bush was the only sitting President to visit and speak at Alcorn State University: he gave the commencement address on May 13, 1989. He made an appearance at the New Capitol in Jackson in 1992, and he and his Vice President, Dan Quayle, hit the campaign trail quickly after



143 securing the Republican nomination in 1992 and made Gulfport their  
144 first stop. In Gulfport, it was quite an honor to have the  
145 President start his campaign in Mississippi. It was very hot in  
146 Jones Park that late August day, but President Bush pulled off his  
147 coat and waved to the crowd in what has become an iconic photo of  
148 an enthusiastic campaigner; and

149 WHEREAS, thousands of mourners filed through the U.S. Capitol  
150 through December 5, 2018, to pay respects to former President  
151 George H.W. Bush, someone who exemplified public service and  
152 personal integrity. President Trump and Governor Bryant ordered  
153 all flags on government buildings to be flown at half-staff and  
154 declared a 30-day period of official mourning for the former  
155 President. His remains were taken by official motorcade past the  
156 White House where he served to the National Cathedral where an  
157 official funeral service was held and he was eulogized by his son,  
158 former President George W. Bush. The funeral service brought  
159 together all living United States Presidents and their wives in  
160 attendance for the first time in this administration. After the  
161 state funeral, President Bush's remains were returned to the  
162 family plot on the campus of Texas A&M University where he was  
163 interred next to his revered wife, Barbara Bush; and

164 WHEREAS, at the funeral service at the Washington National  
165 Cathedral, the younger President Bush delivered the last of four  
166 eulogies recalling qualities of integrity, kindness, dignity,  
167 humor, empathy, loyalty, generosity and truth. "When the history



books are written, they will say that George H.W. Bush was a great President of the United States, a diplomat of unmatched skill, a Commander in Chief of formidable accomplishment and a gentleman who executed the duties of his office with dignity and honor"; and

WHEREAS, President Bush's legacy is a strong and free America, and for this and for a lifetime of selfless service, a grateful State of Mississippi thanks him:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That the Mississippi Legislature:

(a) Has learned with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States of America;

(b) Extends deepest condolences and gratitude to the family of President George H.W. Bush; and

(c) Honors the legacy and life of President George H.W. Bush, his commitment to the people of the United States and service to his nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House of Representatives communicate this Concurrent Resolution and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the family of the late beloved President, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

