

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Simmons  
(12th), Simmons (13th), Frazier, Barnett,  
Jordan, Butler (38th), Hopson, Horhn,  
McLendon, Thomas, Thompson

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 517

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY OF THE  
2 LEGISLATURE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILY OF FORMER MISSISSIPPI MAYOR,  
3 POLITICIAN, DELTA BLUES PROMOTER, ENTREPRENEUR, ATTORNEY, PILOT,  
4 NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER, DEVELOPER, PRESERVATIONIST, ACTOR, FILM  
5 PRODUCER AND RESTAURANT AND NIGHTCLUB IMPRESARIO WILLIAM O. "BILL"  
6 LUCKETT, JR., OF CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI.

7 WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that we note the passing of  
8 William O. "Bill" Lockett, Jr., of Clarksdale, Mississippi, on  
9 October 28, 2021. Bill Lockett was an attorney, small-town mayor,  
10 candidate for governor, blues promoter, friend and business  
11 partner of Morgan Freeman, and an irrepressible teller of tales  
12 about the people and culture of his beloved Mississippi; and

13 WHEREAS, William O. "Bill" Lockett Jr., was a man with an  
14 extensive and surprising list of gifts and talents. Entrepreneur,  
15 attorney, pilot, Mississippi National Guard Officer, developer,  
16 preservationist, actor, film producer, restaurant and nightclub  
17 impresario and politician, and that is a truly pared down list of  
18 Lockett's accomplished life and work; and

19 WHEREAS, Lockett was a University of Virginia graduate who  
20 earned a law degree at Ole Miss. He served a decade in the



21 Mississippi National Guard. He also served as the 2005 Honorary  
22 Co-chair for the Mississippi Heritage Trust. He has served on the  
23 Executive Council of the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys,  
24 the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Hospitality & Restaurant  
25 Association, the Clarksdale-Coahoma County Planning Commission,  
26 and the Clarksdale-Coahoma County Airport Board; and

27 WHEREAS, after a failed gubernatorial bid in 2011, Lockett  
28 was elected Mayor of Clarksdale in 2013 and served his hometown  
29 with distinction in that office. This reflected his deep love for  
30 his city and county and the State of Mississippi; and

31 WHEREAS, at his request, Lockett's family held a celebration  
32 of his life with free music and entertainment at Ground Zero Blues  
33 Club, the joint that he, along with Academy Award-winning Actor  
34 Morgan Freeman and others had owned for two decades in Clarksdale,  
35 Mississippi. The club's name refers to the birthplace of the  
36 blues. "Dad loved Clarksdale, its music and its people with all  
37 of his heart," said his son, Oliver Lockett. He also noted: "In  
38 true Bill Lockett style, one of his final requests was to forgo a  
39 funeral and instead invite the community and anyone that wants to  
40 come to Clarksdale for some great music at Ground Zero Blues Club,  
41 on the house"; and

42 WHEREAS, Lockett leaves to cherish his memory: his wife of  
43 37 years, Francine; son, Oliver Lockett; daughter, Whitney  
44 Lockett; stepson, Park Dodge; and stepdaughter, Douglas Dunavant;  
45 and



46           WHEREAS, Bill Lockett loved his family and friends. He loved  
47   Clarksdale. He loved Mississippi. Bill loved life, and he made  
48   life matter. He made it fun; and

49           WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this  
50   most public-spirited citizen of Mississippi who had enormous civic  
51   and business energy and who will be missed by all who were  
52   fortunate enough to have known his special wisdom and wit:

53           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
54   MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
55   we do hereby extend the deepest sympathy of the Legislature to the  
56   surviving family of former Mississippi mayor, politician, delta  
57   blues promoter, entrepreneur, attorney, pilot, National Guard  
58   Officer, developer, preservationist, actor, film producer and  
59   restaurant and nightclub impresario William O. "Bill" Lockett,  
60   Jr., of Clarksdale, Mississippi.

61           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
62   the surviving family of Bill Lockett, the Mayor and City Council  
63   of Clarksdale, Mississippi, and to Actor Morgan Freeman, and made  
64   available to the Capitol Press Corps.

