

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Jackson (11th), Jordan, Blount, Frazier, Horhn, Thomas, Simmons (12th), Butler (36th), Barnett, Butler (38th), Caughman, Michel, Simmons (13th), McDaniel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 522

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LEGENDARY
2 MISSISSIPPI BASKETBALL COACH LAFAYETTE "STRIB" STRIBLING,
3 REMEMBERING HIS HISTORIC CAREER AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE
4 LEGISLATURE TO HIS SURVIVING FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, Lafayette Stribling, the remarkably motivational and
6 stylishly dressed coach at Mississippi Valley State University
7 (MVSU) and Tougaloo College passed away on October 30, 2021, in
8 Jackson, Mississippi, at 87; and

9 WHEREAS, Coach Stribling was born in Carthage, Mississippi,
10 June 1, 1934, to the late Eugene Stribling and Mary L.
11 Dallas-Stribling. He was the third of six children; and

12 WHEREAS, Coach Stribling resided in the Harmony/Galilee
13 community and was baptized at Galilee Missionary Baptist Church.
14 He excelled as a student and basketball player and graduated from
15 Harmony High School. His athletic and academic skills afforded
16 him a scholarship to Mississippi Industrial College in Holly
17 Springs, Mississippi. Upon graduation he married his college
18 sweetheart, Thelma Montgomery, and to this union two daughters
19 were born; and



20 WHEREAS, Coach Stribling began his coaching career at South
21 Leake High School (formerly Murphy High School and Harmony High
22 School). During his 25 years at South Leake, Stribling was the
23 head coach of the boys' basketball team, head coach of the girls'
24 basketball team, each team having all winning seasons and winning
25 one state title with the boys' basketball team and two state
26 titles with the girls' basketball team. In 1982, Stribling left
27 South Leake to become the head coach of the boys' basketball team
28 at Grenada High School and later accepted the men's basketball
29 head coaching position at Mississippi Valley State University; and

30 WHEREAS, longtime Mississippi basketball fans remember on
31 March 14, 1986, when "Strib," as he was affectionately known, took
32 his Mississippi Valley State Delta Devils to play Duke in the
33 opening round of the NCAA Tournament. Duke was the top seed,
34 meaning that Valley was No. 64. Duke, coached by Mike Krzyzewski
35 and led by the great Johnny Dawkins, a prohibitive force, playing
36 a few miles from their home in Greensboro, North Carolina, where
37 Duke's Blue Devils had just won the Atlantic Coast Conference
38 Tournament. "Nobody gave us a chance," Coach Stribling said
39 regarding the lack of support his team received facing Duke.
40 However, Valley led at halftime and then by as many as seven
41 points midway through the second half. Valley pressed and guarded
42 the Blue Devils as they had rarely been challenged before. Only
43 after four of Valley's five starters fouled out in the final five
44 minutes did Duke surge ahead and win 85-78. Afterward, the large



45 Duke crowd gave Valley and its resplendently dressed coach a
46 prolonged standing ovation. At his postgame press conference, a
47 visibly impressed Coach Krzyzewski lavished praise on "Strib"; and

48 WHEREAS, while at MVSU, Stribling won four regular-season
49 SWAC Championships, along with three tournament titles. After 22
50 years leading the Delta Devils, he left the school with a 315-307
51 record in 2005, the most coaching wins in school's history; and

52 WHEREAS, Coach Stribling took the head coaching job at
53 Tougaloo College in 2005 and moved to Ridgeland, Mississippi,
54 where he joined Mount Charity M.B. Church and continued his
55 tradition of taking his players to church on Sundays. He spent
56 seven years coaching the Bulldogs. During that time, he won four
57 Gulf Coast Athletic Conference regular-season titles, one
58 Conference-Tournament Title, three Conference Coach of the Year
59 Awards and five NAIA National Tournaments. He coached his team to
60 the school's first GCAC regular-season title; and

61 WHEREAS, Coach Stribling's 2010-2011 season was another
62 notable year when he led the "Super 7" to both the regular season
63 and tournament titles and to the Sweet Sixteen in the National
64 Tournament; and

65 WHEREAS, Coach Stribling is a 1989 inductee of the
66 Mississippi Association of Coaches Hall of Fame, a 2006 SWAC Hall
67 of Fame inductee, a 2010 inductee into the MVSU Athletic Hall of
68 Fame and a 2018 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame inductee; and



69 WHEREAS, in 2017, Mississippi Valley State's basketball
70 court, the Stribling-Harris Court, became part of the R.W.
71 Harrison Arena and honors the inspirational coach; and

72 WHEREAS, in 2020, Tougaloo College unveiled the Coach
73 Lafayette Stribling Court. Most recognized for his outstanding
74 winning ways and unique style of dress, Stribling was a
75 trailblazer in the coaching arena, and his dedication and hard
76 work did not go unnoticed; and

77 WHEREAS, his wife preceded him in death, he leaves to cherish
78 his memories, children: Pamela Stribling Cotten, Deborah
79 Stribling-Hill, Derrick McBeath Sr. and Byron Stribling;
80 grandchildren: Camesha Cotten Hatchett, Clifton Cotten Jr.,
81 Darryl Bryant Hill, Kaela McBeath, Derrick McBeath Jr., and Harper
82 Stribling and great-grandchildren: Micah, Chase, London, Ava,
83 Lane, Ryleigh, Zoe and Nuri; and

84 WHEREAS, Dr. Carmen J. Walters, president of Tougaloo
85 College, paid tribute to Coach Stribling, saying: "Our hearts are
86 with the family and loved ones of Coach Lafayette Stribling.
87 Coach Stribling served as an inspiration to many young athletes,
88 with his great examples of self-discipline, hard work and
89 perseverance to accomplish the difficult challenges not only in
90 sports, but in life. He was a vital chapter in Mississippi
91 basketball. He will be truly missed, and our thoughts and prayers
92 are extended to all those he leaves behind."



93 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
94 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
95 we do hereby celebrate the life of legendary Mississippi
96 Basketball Coach Lafayette "Strib" Stribling, remembering his
97 historic career and expressing the sympathy of the Legislature to
98 his surviving family.

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
100 the surviving family of Coach Lafayette Stribling, forwarded to
101 the President of Mississippi Valley State University, the
102 President of Tougaloo College and the Board of Trustees of State
103 Institutions of Higher Learning, and made available to the Capitol
104 Press Corps.

