

By: Senator(s) Tate, Barnett, Branning,  
Jackson (11th), McCaughn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 38

1 A RESOLUTION PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE AND MEDICAL LEGACY OF  
2 DR. GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS "SONNY" RUSH III WHO FOUNDED THE ORTHOPEDIC  
3 SPORTS MEDICINE PROGRAM AT RUSH HOSPITAL IN MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI,  
4 AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS  
5 PASSING.

6 WHEREAS, we join the medical community and the citizens of  
7 Meridian, Mississippi, in mourning the passing of respected  
8 Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Gustavus Rush III on August 20, 2021; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. Gustavus Adolphus "Sonny" Rush III was born on  
10 September 29, 1952, in Meridian, Mississippi. He graduated from  
11 Meridian High School in 1970 as Class President. Dr. Rush  
12 attended the University of Mississippi from 1970-1974. He was a  
13 member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, where he was fondly known as  
14 "The Governor." Dr. Rush received his Doctorate of Medicine at  
15 the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson,  
16 Mississippi, in 1978, and completed his residency training in  
17 Orthopedic Surgery and Sports Medicine at Ochsner Foundation  
18 Hospital in New Orleans in 1984, where he served as Chief  
19 Orthopedic Resident; and



20           WHEREAS, after completing his residency in 1984, Dr. Rush  
21 joined Rush Foundation Hospital as a third generation of Rush  
22 physicians, and founded the Rush Orthopaedic Program. He spent  
23 his entire 38-year career at Rush Hospital. During this time, he  
24 improved and enriched the lives of countless patients and friends.  
25 Dr. Rush performed over 20,000 surgeries during his career and had  
26 many other tremendous work accomplishments. In 1987, he founded  
27 the Rush Sports Medicine Team, a group of orthopaedic surgeons,  
28 physical therapists and athletic trainers who supported over 40  
29 local high schools and colleges in Mississippi and West Alabama.  
30 In 1992, he founded Rush Sports Medicine Research and Development.  
31 Inspired by his desire to protect young athletes, he patented  
32 several cutting-edge technologies such as protective helmets and  
33 concussion sensors; and

34           WHEREAS, Dr. Sonny, as he was affectionally known by his  
35 patients, treated work like a blessing, none of it like a chore.  
36 To him, being a doctor was every bit as fun and enjoyable as his  
37 hobbies. It is no coincidence that he routinely had clinic on  
38 late Friday afternoons. He loved taking care of patients, and his  
39 life was firmly dedicated to that; and

40           WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife of 40 years, Karen Rush;  
41 five children: Heath Rush, Lane Rush (Caroline), Alston Rush  
42 (Jena), Logan Rush (Anne) and Callie Waite (Tanner); seven  
43 grandchildren: Lane Rush, Jr., Luke Rush, Ben Rush, Lillian Rush,  
44 Henry Rush, Clara Jane Rush and Drew Rush; and siblings, Diane



45 Douglas (Pete) and Harriette Carney (Bill). He is preceded in  
46 death by his mother and father, Gustavus Adolphus Rush, Jr., and  
47 Virginia Arline Rush; and sister, Jeannine Rush Savell; and

48 WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this  
49 most respected medical professional and public-spirited citizen of  
50 Mississippi, whose leadership and enormous civic energy will be  
51 missed:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
53 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby pay tribute to the life and medical  
54 legacy of Dr. Gustavus Adolphus "Sonny" Rush III who founded the  
55 Orthopedic Sports Medicine Program at Rush Hospital in Meridian,  
56 Mississippi, and express the deepest sympathy to his family and  
57 friends upon his passing.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
59 the family of Dr. Gustavus Adolphus "Sonny" Rush III, forwarded to  
60 the Board of Trustees of Rush Memorial Hospital, and made  
61 available to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

