

By: Senator(s) McMahan, Barnett, Boyd, Branning, Butler (38th), Caughman, Chassaniol, DeBar, England, Hickman, Hopson, Horhn, Jackson, Kirby, McCaughn, McLendon, Michel, Moran, Parker, Sparks, Suber, Thompson, Williams, Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 515

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE PASSING AND COMMENDING
2 THE LIFE, PUBLIC SERVICE AND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS OF FORMER
3 STATE SENATOR, CIRCUIT JUDGE AND DECORATED WORLD WAR II VETERAN
4 THOMAS FREDERICK (FRED) WICKER OF PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI, AND
5 EXTENDING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS SURVIVING FAMILY.

6 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we learned of the passing of
7 a dedicated public servant and decorated World War II veteran,
8 former State Senator and Circuit Judge Thomas Frederick (Fred)
9 Wicker of Pontotoc and Benton Counties on October 21, 2022, at the
10 age of 98; and

11 WHEREAS, a native of Hickory Flat in Benton County,
12 Mississippi, he graduated from Hickory Flat High School, where he
13 was President of his Senior Class. He enrolled at Holmes Junior
14 College in September 1941, where he was a member of the football
15 team, remaining in school there until he was drafted into military
16 service in February 1943. Following almost three years of active
17 duty in the Army and Army Air Corps, which included tours in
18 England, France, Belgium and Germany and where he was a
19 Championship Boxer, he was discharged on January 1, 1946, and



20 immediately returned to Holmes Junior College to resume his
21 education, receiving his diploma in May 1946; and

22 WHEREAS, entering Ole Miss Law School in June 1946, Wicker
23 served as Class President and received his Law Degree in June
24 1948. Shortly thereafter, he and his wife, Wordna, moved to
25 Pontotoc, where he resided until his death. He was engaged in the
26 general practice of law until September 1970, during which time he
27 served 12 years as County Prosecuting Attorney, eight years as
28 Pontotoc City Attorney and three years as Mississippi State
29 Senator (January 1968 to September 1970) representing the counties
30 of Pontotoc, Union and Benton; and

31 WHEREAS, as a State Senator, he championed public education
32 and highways. In 1968, he was successful in passing an amendment
33 to make state Highway 15 4-lanes from the Tennessee line to the
34 Gulf Coast. Although the Senate later adjourned without passing
35 the highway bill, he lived to see much of his effort succeed, with
36 the current Highway 15 4-lane phase being constructed in Pontotoc
37 and Union counties; and

38 WHEREAS, on September 1, 1970, he was appointed Circuit Judge
39 of the First Circuit Court District to fill the unexpired term of
40 Judge N.S. Sweat, Jr. He thereafter was elected to the position
41 five times until his retirement; and

42 WHEREAS, former State Senator Thomas Frederick (Fred) Wicker
43 of Pontotoc, Mississippi, retired December 31, 1990, following a



44 legal career of more than 42 years, the last 20 of which were
45 spent as Circuit Judge; and

46 WHEREAS, he was married in June 1948 to the former Wordna
47 Threadgill of Big Creek, Calhoun County, Mississippi, whom he had
48 met at Holmes Junior College. They had two children, Ellen Wicker
49 Cummings and U.S. Senator, Congressman and former State Senator
50 Roger Frederick Wicker of Tupelo, Mississippi, and a foster
51 daughter, Mindy Theile and five grandchildren; and

52 WHEREAS, Judge Wicker was active in the Pontotoc Rotary Club
53 for 57 years, having served as President. He was named a Paul
54 Harris Fellow. He was a member of American Legion Post 16 in
55 Pontotoc, where he served as Commander, and Chairman for Boys
56 State and Girls State and Coach of the American Legion Baseball
57 Team. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Pontotoc, where
58 he served as Chairman of the Deacons, Sunday School Teacher and a
59 member of two Pastor Search Committees. In 1998, he was presented
60 the Distinguished Service Award by Holmes Community College; and

61 WHEREAS, in retirement, he continued to be active in his
62 community. He was a member of the Pontotoc County Tale Tellers,
63 an avid hunter and annually served at the Pontotoc Bodock
64 Festival. He continued teaching Sunday School and maintained his
65 role as an active member of the Rotary Club and American Legion.
66 Judge Wicker had perfect attendance at the Grand Reunion held
67 annually in the State Senate; and



68 WHEREAS, he is survived by three children, Ellen Wicker
69 Cummings (Ned), Roger Frederick Wicker (Gayle), foster daughter
70 Mindy Staten Parrish; grandchildren, Margaret McPhillips
71 (Manning), Caroline Sims (Kirk), McDaniel Wicker (Kellee), Rebecca
72 Cummings and Frederick Cummings (Rebecca); eleven
73 great-grandchildren; brother, Kenneth Wicker (Norma). Fred was
74 preceded in death by his wife and parents, and his brothers and a
75 sister; and

76 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the career
77 of this dedicated public servant, whose legacy lives on in the
78 respect of the members of The Mississippi Bar and the Mississippi
79 Legislature as a well-known practitioner:

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
81 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
82 we do hereby mourn the passing and commend the life, public
83 service and community contributions of former State Senator,
84 Circuit Judge and decorated World War II Veteran, Thomas F. (Fred)
85 Wicker of Pontotoc, Mississippi, and extend to his surviving
86 family our sincere sympathy on his passing.

