

By: Senator(s) Michel, Hickman, Polk, Boyd, Carter, Fillingane, Parks, Harkins, Johnson, DeBar, Barnett, Butler (38th), Caughman, Hopson, Horhn, Seymour

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 547

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE  
2 LEGISLATURE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILY OF RENOWNED MISSISSIPPI  
3 FOOTBALL DEFENSIVE COACH JIM CARMODY AND REMEMBERING HIS LEGACY IN  
4 THE FOOTBALL HISTORIES OF OLE MISS, SOUTHERN MISS, MISSISSIPPI  
5 STATE AND THE NFL.

6 WHEREAS, Coach Jim "Big Nasty" Carmody, 89, a renowned  
7 defensive football mastermind and a prominent figure in the  
8 football histories of Southern Miss, Ole Miss and Mississippi  
9 State, passed away on January 5, 2023; and

10 WHEREAS, "Big Nasty" was Carmody's nickname given to him by  
11 his defensive players at Southern Miss, but the moniker had more  
12 to do with the way his defenses played. His players swarmed to  
13 the football and hit hard, whether he was coaching at Mississippi  
14 State, Ole Miss or Southern Miss, or in the NFL. At Southern  
15 Miss, where he was first the Defensive Coordinator (1978-1980) and  
16 then the Head Coach (1982-1987), his defenses were called "The  
17 Nasty Bunch" (a nickname that endures to this day); and

18 WHEREAS, Jim Carmody was born in Shreveport, Louisiana, on  
19 August 24, 1933, to Mr. and Mrs. James Edward Carmody, Sr. He



20 spent most of his youth in New Orleans. Jim graduated from Holy  
21 Cross High School. After high school, he played football at  
22 Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Wesson, Mississippi, and went  
23 on to finish his college football career at Tulane University in  
24 New Orleans, Louisiana; and

25 WHEREAS, after graduating from Tulane, Jim enlisted in the  
26 U.S. Army. In 1956, he was stationed in Korea, where he had his  
27 first coaching opportunity. In an effort to boost unit morale,  
28 the Army advertised for a football coach. Jim Carmody was the man  
29 for the job, and subsequently, his love for coaching the game of  
30 football was awakened. After his honorable discharge from the  
31 Army, he returned to coach at Holy Cross High School. Jim then  
32 took on the role as Graduate Assistant Football Coach at Tulane,  
33 where he received his master's degree; and

34 WHEREAS, Coach Carmody served two different stints at all  
35 three of the state's largest universities, and he was part of  
36 monumental victories at each. Perhaps the most memorable of all  
37 was in October of 1982 when he was the Head Coach of the Southern  
38 Miss Team that defeated Alabama and the legendary Bear Bryant  
39 38-29 at Tuscaloosa, thus ending Bryant's 59-game home winning  
40 streak. It was the first time a visiting team had won at Alabama  
41 in 19 seasons. Southern Miss had winning seasons in five of  
42 Carmody's six years as Head Coach, playing most of the more  
43 difficult games on the road; and



44           WHEREAS, Coach Carmody was also part of program-defining  
45 victories at Ole Miss and State. A sampling follows:

46           • In 1977, when he was the Defensive Coordinator at Ole  
47 Miss, the Rebels defeated eventual National Champion Notre Dame  
48 20-13 at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Stadium in extreme  
49 afternoon heat. Coach Carmody was the architect of a defensive  
50 game plan that stymied the heavily favored Fighting Irish in one  
51 of the signature football victories in Ole Miss history;

52           • In 1989, two years after leaving Southern Miss, Coach  
53 Carmody was the Coordinator of the Mississippi State Team that  
54 defeated nationally ranked Southern Miss and Brett Favre 26-23  
55 before a standing room only crowd at Hattiesburg. Southern Miss  
56 had defeated Florida State the week before and had defeated  
57 Mississippi State eight consecutive times. While Coach Carmody  
58 was at Southern Miss, the Golden Eagles won eight of 10 games  
59 against State. When Carmody moved to State, the Bulldogs were 2-0  
60 against USM;

61           • In 1992, still later in his career, Coach Carmody came  
62 back to haunt State, this time at Ole Miss. The Rebels won that  
63 Egg Bowl 17-10 when Coach Carmody's defensive front held State out  
64 of the end zone on three consecutive goal line stands, 11 plays,  
65 all from inside the 10-yard line; and

66           WHEREAS, Coach Carmody was part of Mississippi sports history  
67 in other ways. In 1987, Coach Carmody's USM team was the first  
68 historically white university to play against one of state's



69 historically black universities. Southern Miss defeated W.C.  
70 Gorden-coached Jackson State 17-7 before an overflow crowd in  
71 Hattiesburg. Coach Carmody had pushed for the game to be played  
72 and afterward had nothing but praise for the JSU Tigers, of whom  
73 he said, "were well-coached and talented and could defeat a lot of  
74 the better teams on our schedule." Early in his career, Coach  
75 Carmody coached on Paul Davis' staff at Mississippi State  
76 (1964-1966) and helped the Bulldogs to their first victory over a  
77 John Vaught-coached Ole Miss Team 20-17 at Oxford in 1964, which  
78 was a big deal in those days; and

79 WHEREAS, Coach Carmody's well-known and respected career also  
80 lead him to the NFL where he was an Assistant Coach for the  
81 Buffalo Bills and a scout for the Arizona Cardinals. Jim Carmody  
82 coached the late, great Ben Williams both at Ole Miss and then  
83 with the Buffalo Bills of the NFL. When Williams was playing for  
84 the Bills, the team had an opening for a Defensive Coach and  
85 Williams told Buffalo Head Coach Chuck Knox, "You hire Jim Carmody  
86 and we will win our division next season." Knox hired Carmody  
87 away from Southern Miss, and the Bills led the league in defense  
88 and sacks and won their division. Ben Williams made All-Pro; and

89 WHEREAS, many awards were given to Coach Carmody throughout  
90 his career. Most notably, admission to: Mississippi Sports Hall  
91 of Fame, Southern Miss Hall of Fame, Copiah-Lincoln Community  
92 College Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Mississippi Community  
93 College Sports Hall of Fame; and



94 WHEREAS, Jim was married to the former Earlyn "Noonie"  
95 Regouffre for 63 years. Together, they raised four sons: Steve  
96 Carmody (Nena), Brian Carmody (Bridget), Keith Carmody (Kelly) and  
97 Chris Carmody. They were blessed with six grandchildren: Chase  
98 Carmody (Shannon), Caitlin Carmody Cox (Justin), Mackenzie  
99 Carmody, Connor Carmody, Caroline Carmody and Mary Blair Carmody;  
100 four great-grandchildren; a host of beloved nieces and nephews;  
101 and an abundance of loved ones. Coach Jim Carmody was preceded in  
102 death by his parents, James and Bema Carmody; and his sister,  
103 Elizabeth Carmody Gonzalez; and

104 WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this  
105 most renowned Mississippi sports icon who leaves a legacy of  
106 sports history and excellence which has brought honor to the State  
107 of Mississippi:

108 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
109 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
110 we do hereby extend the condolences of the Legislature to the  
111 surviving family of renowned Mississippi Football Defensive Coach  
112 Jim Carmody and remember his legacy in the football histories of  
113 Ole Miss, Southern Miss, Mississippi State and the NFL.

114 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
115 the surviving family of Coach Jim Carmody, forwarded to the  
116 President of USM, the Chancellor of Ole Miss, the President of  
117 MSU, the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, and be made available to  
118 the Capitol Press Corps.

