

By: Senator(s) Simmons (12th), Blount,  
Branning, Frazier, Hopson, Michel, Norwood,  
Thompson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 516

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MISSISSIPPI SUPREME COURT  
2 PRESIDING JUSTICE AND FORMER REPRESENTATIVE LESLIE D. KING UPON  
3 HIS RECEIPT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS "60 COURAGEOUS JUDGES AWARD" BY THE  
4 NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE.

5 WHEREAS, we join the National Judicial College in recognizing  
6 Mississippi's longest-serving Appellate Judge and former member of  
7 the Mississippi House of Representatives Leslie King for his  
8 record of service to the legal profession and our system of  
9 justice; and

10 WHEREAS, the National Judicial College (NJC) has named  
11 Mississippi Supreme Court Presiding Justice Leslie D. King as one  
12 of its 60 Courageous Judges. This announcement was part of the  
13 NJC's 60th Anniversary Celebration on December 7. The NJC,  
14 located in Reno, Nevada, is the oldest judges' education program  
15 in the U.S. It honored 60 judges from the U.S. and other  
16 countries for their courage in upholding justice; and

17 WHEREAS, Justice King expressed his gratitude for the  
18 recognition. He recalled his oath from January 1995 when he  
19 became a judge. He stressed his commitment to impartial and equal



20 justice, in line with the U.S. Constitution and Mississippi laws.  
21 He stated this his goal as a judge is to honor his oath; and

22 WHEREAS, Justice King has a notable judicial career. He is  
23 currently the longest-serving Appellate Judge in Mississippi, with  
24 29 years of service in the Mississippi Supreme Court and Court of  
25 Appeals. He was an original member of the Court of Appeals, which  
26 started hearing cases in January 1995. He was the first  
27 African-American chief judge of the Court of Appeals, a role he  
28 held for nearly seven years before joining the Supreme Court in  
29 2011; and

30 WHEREAS, before his judicial career, Justice King served in  
31 the Mississippi House of Representatives for 15 years, from 1980  
32 to 1994. He held leadership roles, including vice-chairman of two  
33 committees. He was also the chairman of the Mississippi Black  
34 Legislative Caucus in 1988. His early legal career included roles  
35 as Youth Court Counselor, Public Defender and Municipal Court  
36 Judge. Justice King, who was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in  
37 1973, has practiced law for over 50 years; and

38 WHEREAS, the NJC is the largest and most attended judges'  
39 school in the country, educating judges from all 50 states. The  
40 honorees were chosen from nominations by NJC alumni and staff.  
41 Justice King was the only judge from Mississippi selected. The  
42 list of 60 Courageous Judges included notable judiciary figures  
43 like the late Judge Constance Baker; and



44 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend an individual  
45 who has devoted himself to serving the public, the legal  
46 profession, and the administration of justice over the span of his  
47 professional career, contributing significantly to our system of  
48 justice and to the legal profession and to the State of  
49 Mississippi:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
51 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
52 we do hereby recognize Mississippi Supreme Court Presiding Justice  
53 and Former Representative Leslie D. King upon his receipt of the  
54 prestigious "60 Courageous Judges Award" by the National Judicial  
55 College and extend to Justice King and his family our best wishes  
56 and thanks:

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
58 Justice Leslie D. King, forwarded to the Mississippi Supreme Court  
59 and the National Judicial College and made available to the  
60 Capitol Press Corps.

