

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.

