

By: Senator(s) Simmons (13th), Simmons To: Rules  
 (12th), Blount, Turner-Ford, Horhn,  
 Butler, Brumfield, Frazier, Jackson,  
 McCaughn, McLendon, Norwood, Suber,  
 Thompson, England, Hickman, Barnett,  
 Barrett, Berry, Blackmon, Blackwell,  
 Boyd, Branning, Bryan, Carter,  
 Chassaniol, Chism, DeBar, DeLano,  
 Fillingane, Harkins, Hill, Hopson,  
 Johnson, Jordan, Kirby, Ladner, McMahan,  
 Michel, Parker, Parks, Polk, Rhodes,  
 Robinson, Seymour, Sparks, Tate, Thomas,  
 Whaley, Wiggins, Williams, Younger

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 540

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF ROSIE S.  
 2 SIMMONS AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN SINCE RECONSTRUCTION TO  
 3 SERVE AS CIRCUIT CLERK OF BOLIVAR COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Rosie S. Simmons, was elected in 1988 as the first  
 5 African American and the first African American woman since  
 6 Reconstruction to the Office of Bolivar County Circuit Clerk, and  
 7 served as the Circuit Clerk of Bolivar County for 20 consecutive  
 8 years; and

9 WHEREAS, Rosie Simmons, a native of Fernwood, Mississippi,  
 10 received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Tougaloo  
 11 College in 1967. Upon graduating college, she began the next  
 12 chapter of her life and a career as an educator in the West  
 13 Bolivar School District in Rosedale, Mississippi, where she met  
 14 her future husband. She eventually sought employment in the field  
 15 of Environmental Health at the Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou,  
 16 which was the first low-income clinic of its kind in Mississippi;  
 17 and



18           WHEREAS, in 1976, Rosie Simmons began serving as a Deputy  
19 Clerk for the Bolivar County Circuit Clerk's Office and worked  
20 there for several years until she took a position with the  
21 Superintendent of Education. Within just a few years she returned  
22 to the Bolivar County Circuit Clerk's Office and continued to  
23 serve as a Deputy Clerk until being elected to office as the  
24 Bolivar County Circuit Clerk in 1988; and

25           WHEREAS, Rosie Simmons was raised in the church and is the  
26 eldest daughter of the late Pastor Earnest Landrew. She earned a  
27 Biblical degree in "Divinity" under the tutelage of Bishop  
28 Roderick Mitchell in 1999 and is presently a member of the House  
29 of Prayer for All People under the pastorship of Apostle Joseph  
30 Young; and

31           WHEREAS, Rosie has been married to the current Mississippi  
32 Central District Transportation Commissioner and former State  
33 Senator Willie Simmons for over 50 years; and from this union they  
34 had four children: Christopher, Avery, Reginald and Senator  
35 Sarita Simmons, along with ten grandchildren and several  
36 great-grandchildren; and

37           WHEREAS, Rosie S. Simmons's life has been marked by her  
38 commitment to service and her dedication to selfless leadership.  
39 She has set the highest standard in all of her many roles, as a  
40 ground-breaking leader, a minister, a wife, a mother, and a true  
41 friend:



42           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
43 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
44 we do hereby recognize the legacy of Rosie S. Simmons as the first  
45 African American since Reconstruction to serve as Circuit Clerk of  
46 Bolivar County, Mississippi, and extend the best wishes of the  
47 Mississippi Senate for future success.

48           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
49 Rosie S. Simmons and her family, forwarded to the Bolivar County  
50 Board of Supervisors, and made available to the Capitol Press  
51 Corps.

