

By: Senator(s) Boyd, McCaughn, Berry,
Blackwell, Chassaniol, Fillingane, Frazier,
Hopson, Michel, Parker, Robinson, Suber,
Kirby

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE LIFE AND
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER STATE SENATOR AND SECOND FEMALE JUSTICE
3 IN HISTORY ON THE MISSISSIPPI SUPREME COURT KAY COBB OF OXFORD,
4 MISSISSIPPI, AND LENOIR CITY, TENNESSEE, WHO SERVED IN MANY
5 CAPACITIES IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE IN MISSISSIPPI, AND
6 EXTENDING THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY OF THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE TO HER
7 FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON HER PASSING.

8 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the State of Mississippi lost a
9 colleague, a long-tenured legal educator and a state agency
10 attorney in Kay Cobb of Oxford, Mississippi, and Lenoir City,
11 Tennessee, who passed away on May 26, 2023; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Cobb earned an undergraduate degree from
13 Mississippi University for Women in 1963 and earned a Juris
14 Doctorate in 1978 from the University of Mississippi School of
15 Law; and

16 WHEREAS, she practiced law in Oxford until 1983 when she
17 became Director of Prosecutor Programs at Mississippi Prosecutors
18 College at UM School of Law. From 1984-1988, she was senior
19 attorney for the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics; and



20 WHEREAS, in 1988, she became a special assistant attorney
21 general and established a North Mississippi regional office.
22 Senator Cobb served as state coordinator of the State Wide
23 Education Enforcement and Prevention System program and served on
24 the President's Commission on Model State Drug Laws and the
25 National Alliance for Model State Drug Law; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Cobb was elected to the Mississippi Senate
27 and served from 1992 to 1996. Senator Cobb served as Chair of the
28 Senate Elections committee at a time when election laws were being
29 debated and modernized, and she was active in election reform
30 legislation; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1999, Governor Kirk Fordice appointed her to the
32 Mississippi Supreme Court as the second female justice in
33 Mississippi history; she was elected to the position in 2000. She
34 served until 2007 and authored 211 majority opinions during her
35 tenure; and

36 WHEREAS, Senator Cobb was the 2007 recipient of the Susie
37 Blue Buchanan Award by the Bar's Women in the Profession section,
38 and received the MUW Medal of Excellence in 1990; and

39 WHEREAS, Senator and Justice Cobb's life and service were
40 marked by her commitment to success and recognized leadership,
41 sound judgment and fairness. She set the highest standard in all
42 her many roles as a practicing attorney, citizen, stateswoman, and
43 leader in the Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi Supreme Court
44 and the Mississippi Bar:



45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
46 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby mourn the loss and commend the
47 life, career and legal legacy of former State Senator and Justice
48 of the Mississippi Supreme Court Kay Cobb, and extend the
49 condolences and sympathy of the Mississippi Senate to her family
50 and friends.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
52 the surviving family of Senator and Justice Kay Cobb, forwarded to
53 the Lafayette County Board of Supervisors and the Clerk of the
54 Mississippi Supreme Court and be made available to the Capitol
55 Press Corps.

