

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

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 502

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE SINCEREST SYMPATHY OF
 2 THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILY OF FORMER
 3 MISSISSIPPI SENATOR, PRESIDING JUSTICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI COURT OF
 4 APPEALS AND RESPECTED TRIAL LAWYER JOHN JAMES FRASIER, JR., OF
 5 LEFLORE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AND COMMENDING HIS SERVICE TO HIS
 6 COMMUNITY AND HIS STATE.

7 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of
 8 former State Senator, Presiding Judge of the Mississippi Court of
 9 Appeals and WWII Veteran, John James Frasier, Jr., on July 4,
 10 2024; and

11 WHEREAS, Senator Frasier was born on August 10, 1925, in
 12 Sunnyside in Leflore County to John J. Fraiser Sr., and Evelyn
 13 Wells Fraiser. He attended and graduated as Class President of
 14 the Minter City school system, and thereafter enrolled at
 15 Mississippi State College, now Mississippi State University, as a
 16 16-year-old freshman in the spring of 1942. He pledged and became
 17 a member of the Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity; and

18 WHEREAS, in July 1943, he volunteered for service in the
 19 United States Army Air Corps, where he was assigned to the aerial



20 Army Air Forces Gunnery School in Laredo, Texas. He then served
21 as a top turret armorer gunner on a B-24 bomber of the 15th Air
22 Force, where he completed missions over Germany, Austria, Romania,
23 Yugoslavia and Northern Italy. Obtaining the rank of staff
24 sergeant, he was awarded the Air Medal with clusters for his
25 service in five battle zones. He returned to the United States in
26 the spring of 1945, was honorably discharged in October 1945,
27 entered the University of Mississippi in February 1946 and
28 graduated in 1948 with his Bachelor of Laws and Juris Doctorate;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, in law school, he was a member of Phi Alpha Delta,
31 National Honorary Scholastic Legal Fraternity. John returned to
32 the Mississippi Delta and began his legal practice in Greenwood as
33 an associate of Honorary Means Johnston. He successfully
34 practiced law in Greenwood as the senior partner of the Fraiser-
35 Burgoon Law Firm until 1989. He served as president of the local
36 bar association and was an active member of the Mississippi Bar
37 Association; and

38 WHEREAS, in addition to his law practice, John engaged in
39 many community service activities. He was Chairman of the Leflore
40 District of Boy Scouts of America, Director of the Leflore County
41 Salvation Army, Leflore County Chairman of the March of Dimes,
42 Vice President of the Greenwood Junior Chamber of Commerce,
43 President of the Greenwood Kiwanis Club and Chairman of
44 Mississippi School for Cerebral Palsy. As a result of his civic



45 service, John was presented with the Distinguished Service Award
46 as the Most Outstanding Young Man of Greenwood for 1955; and

47 WHEREAS, in 1975, John was elected to the office of State
48 Senator of his district, where he served as Senate Chairman of
49 Education, Vice Chairman of Judiciary, Chairman of Universities
50 and Colleges and was a member of the Senate Appropriations
51 Committees. He was the Senate author of the 16th Section Land
52 Reform Act, co-author of the Math and Science Program Act at
53 Mississippi University for Women, co-author of the Education
54 Reform Act and a staunch supporter of the first funding for the
55 veterinary school and co-author for the establishment of the
56 School of Architecture at Mississippi State University. He
57 retired from the Senate after eight years of service; and

58 WHEREAS, through his leadership, the Mississippi Court of
59 Appeals was established in 1994 to ease a backlog of cases in the
60 Mississippi Supreme Court. In 1995, he was elected as a judge for
61 the newly formed appellate court and was selected to serve as the
62 first Chief Judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals, where he
63 and the other appellate judges helped to drastically reduce the
64 time that it took for cases to work through the appellate system,
65 going from 1,031 days to 220 days. He then tendered his
66 resignation from the court, retired and returned to Greenwood; and

67 WHEREAS, in 2000, he and his beloved wife Jennie moved to
68 Starkville, where they became avid participants in all things
69 Mississippi State University – sports, academics and public



70 programs hosted by the university. Together they attended many
71 memorable moments of MSU life, especially trips to the Collegiate
72 Baseball World Series where they witnessed Mississippi State win
73 the College World Series. John was awarded the Honorary Doctorate
74 of Public Service by Mississippi State in May 2020. He was an
75 active member of the Starkville Rotary Club; and

76 WHEREAS, John was a lifelong member of the United Methodist
77 Church and served on the Board of Trustees of the Minter City
78 Methodist Church, the United Methodist Church of Greenwood and the
79 North Greenwood United Methodist Church. Since moving to
80 Starkville, he and Jennie have been members of First United
81 Methodist Church, where he was a member of the Savage Sunday
82 School; and

83 WHEREAS, John was preceded in death by his parents, his two
84 sisters and brothers-in-law, Juanita and Bobby Baker and
85 Marguerite and Robert Montgomery; granddaughter, Lucille Fraiser;
86 and son-in-law, Felton Bryant. He is survived by his son, John J.
87 Fraiser III; his daughter, Martha Fraiser Bryant; stepson, James
88 L. "Jim" Whitehead IV; stepdaughter, Emilie Whitehead Odom (Mike);
89 and grandchildren: Mary Adelyn Fraiser, Paul Fraiser, Jenn Odom
90 and Asher Odom (Sarah); and

91 WHEREAS, while John loved the practice of law and his other
92 professional endeavors, he considered his greatest achievement to
93 be his family. John served as a leader and mentor. He
94 consistently lectured on professional standards of the practice,



95 including ethics, integrity, civility, courtesy and adherence to
96 the Golden Rule. He advised his colleagues: "One only has so
97 many points of Personal Privilege, use them wisely." Frasier was
98 a public servant who brought people together. He was truly a
99 servant of the people. Frasier was a statesman of the highest
100 order. John's life honored both The Mississippi Bar and this
101 great state that he loved and served:

102 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
103 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
104 we do hereby extend the sincerest sympathy of the Mississippi
105 Senate to the surviving family of former Mississippi Senator,
106 Presiding Judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals and respected
107 trial lawyer John James Frasier, Jr., of Leflore County,
108 Mississippi, and commend his service to his community and his
109 state.

110 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
111 the surviving family of former Senator John James Frasier, Jr.,
112 forwarded to The Mississippi Bar, and be made available to the
113 Capitol Press Corps.

