

By: Senator(s) Fillingane, Johnson,
Barnett, Barrett, Berry, Blackmon,
Blackwell, Blount, Boyd, Brumfield,
Bryan, Butler, Carter, Chassaniol,
Chism, DeBar, DeLano, England, Frazier,
Harkins, Hickman, Hill, Hopson, Horhn,
Jackson, Jordan, 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. 503

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE SINCEREST SYMPATHY OF
2 THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILY OF THE HONORABLE
3 EDWIN LLOYD PITTMAN, FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI
4 SUPREME COURT, FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE,
5 FORMER TWO TERM MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATOR, AND FORMER BRIGADIER
6 GENERAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD.

7 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of The
8 Honorable Edwin Lloyd Pittman, former Chief Justice of the
9 Mississippi Supreme Court, former Attorney General, former
10 Secretary of State, former two-term Mississippi State Senator, and
11 former Brigadier General of the Mississippi National Guard on
12 September 25, 2024; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Pittman was born in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on
14 January 2, 1935, as the fourth of five children of Lloyd Pittman
15 and Pauline McRaney Pittman. Mr. Pittman's father, Lloyd, was one
16 of five Pittman brothers, all respected and active members of the
17 Hattiesburg community. The brothers were Claude Pittman, former
18 Mayor of Hattiesburg; Homer Pittman, long-time District Attorney
19 in Forrest County; Clyde Pittman of Lexington, Kentucky; Lloyd



20 Pittman, and Calhoun Pittman. Mr. Pittman's mother, Pauline
21 McRaney Pittman, was the eldest of nine children of Reid McRaney
22 and Bertha Hood McRaney of the Lone Star community in Covington
23 County; and

24 WHEREAS, at the age of 13, Edwin rode by train to our
25 nation's capital, where he served as page in the U.S. House of
26 Representatives for Congressman William Colmer. As a page, Edwin
27 lived in a boarding house near the Capitol across from Washington
28 Union Station and attended a school for pages in the attic of the
29 Library of Congress. He returned home to Hattiesburg public
30 schools where he had a circle of friends that remained close for a
31 lifetime. He participated in school theatre productions, YMCA,
32 and high school fraternal organizations. He was a member of
33 Hattiesburg High School Class of 1953, which only ceased meetings
34 this year due to the increasing age and declining health of the
35 membership; and

36 WHEREAS, after graduating from Hattiesburg High School, Mr.
37 Pittman attended The University of Southern Mississippi, where he
38 was President of Kappa Sigma fraternity. Mr. Pittman's other
39 activities at the University of Southern Mississippi included ROTC
40 and participation in student government. After obtaining his
41 bachelor's degree in political science, Mr. Pittman entered the
42 University of Mississippi School of Law in 1957, where he earned
43 his Juris Doctor, and served as President of his graduating class.
44 During his law school days, he married the late Barbara Peel, of



Greenwood. After graduation, the couple went to Fort Benning, Georgia, for Mr. Pittman's military training; and

WHEREAS, he began his political career in 1963, campaigning in the southern Mississippi Senate district of Forrest, Lamar, and Marion counties. His wife and children actively campaigned for him, often giving speeches to support him. From 1971 to 1987, the family's campaign activities covered all 82 counties of the state. Mr. Pittman served this state until his retirement in 2004 and was proud to have done so; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Pittman was elected to the Mississippi Senate in 1964 representing his hometown of Hattiesburg. He went on to serve in the state-elected offices of Treasurer, Secretary of State and Attorney General. He served as Attorney General from 1984 to 1988; and

WHEREAS, after losing the gubernatorial bid in an ultra-competitive Democrat primary that included other statewide elected officials and a past governor, Pittman came back to capture a seat on the State Supreme Court in 1989. "Chief Pittman provided exemplary leadership to the Mississippi Judiciary as chief justice," said former Chief Justice Bill Waller, Jr., who served with Pittman on the state's highest court. "His accomplishments for efficiency, transparency and access to justice had a profound effect on our legal system. He championed the establishment of shorter deadlines for hearing cases ... brought rule changes to allow cameras in the courtroom and improved access



70 to justice for the poor and disadvantaged, to name a few. The
71 court system today is better for his untiring efforts and
72 dedication to duty"; and

73 WHEREAS, as chief justice, Pittman was credited with making
74 the Supreme Court more transparent and posting dockets and oral
75 arguments online. He also led the effort to put in place
76 regulations to allow news cameras in the courtroom at a time when
77 only a handful of states were allowing them. Truly, as Justice
78 Waller stated, Pittman worked to garner public funding to provide
79 access to the judiciary for the needy. Pittman said at the time,
80 "We have to recognize the fact that we in many communities are
81 frankly failing to get legal services to the people who need it
82 It's time that the courts help shoulder the burden of
83 rendering legal services to the needy in Mississippi"; and

84 WHEREAS, in 2011, Governor Haley Barbour awarded Pittman the
85 Mississippi Medal of Service. "The people of this state have
86 honored me with a wonderful trip through life," Pittman said at
87 the awards ceremony. Current Chief Justice Mike Randolph said,
88 "Even though he served in all these important government
89 positions, he never lost his common touch"; and

90 WHEREAS, "He was a consummate politician and public servant.
91 He's an important figure in Mississippi's history," said U.S.
92 Court of Appeals Judge James Graves. Graves was the third African
93 American Mississippian to serve on the modern Supreme Court.



94 Earlier in Graves' career, he was hired to a position in the
95 Attorney General's office by Pittman; and

96 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara
97 Lucille Peel Pittman and son, Edwin (Win) Lloyd Pittman, Jr., his
98 parents; siblings, Mary Ann Pittman Francis (Gene), Joyce Pittman
99 Tadlock (John), Franklin Reid (Buddy) Pittman, Sr. (Carolyn), and
100 Kelly Lamar Pittman; also, his nephews, Franklin Reid Pittman,
101 Jr., and niece, Debra Francis Walker (Bo). He leaves behind his
102 wife, Virginia Star Lund Browne Pittman; children and
103 stepchildren, Melanie Wakeland (John), Jennifer Martin (Ricky),
104 Will Browne, Michael Browne, Joly Browne Nield (Bruce), and Betsy
105 Browne McClendon (John); grandchildren, Barbara Hart Wakeland Byrd
106 (Chad), Margaret Lucille Wakeland Haag (Aaron), John Thomas
107 Wakeland III, (Catherine), Edwin (Tad) Lloyd Pittman III,
108 Christian Reid Pittman, Lauren Nield Kump (Jake), Elizabeth Nield
109 Jones (Nick), Connor McClendon, Bill McClendon, Taylor Browne, and
110 Lindsey Browne; and three great-grandchildren; and

111 WHEREAS, Judge Pittman served as a leader and mentor. He
112 consistently lectured on professional standards of the practice,
113 including ethics, integrity, civility, courtesy and adherence to
114 the Golden Rule. Justice Pittman's life honored both The
115 Mississippi Bar and this great state that he loved and served:

116 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
117 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
118 we do hereby extend the sincerest sympathy of the Mississippi



119 Senate to the surviving family of The Honorable Edwin Lloyd
120 Pittman, former Chief Justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court,
121 former Attorney General, former Secretary of State, former two-
122 term Mississippi State Senator, and former Brigadier General of
123 the Mississippi National Guard on September 25, 2024, and commend
124 his service to his community and his state.

125 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
126 the surviving family of former Senator Edwin Lloyd Pittman,
127 forwarded to The Mississippi Bar, and made available to the
128 Capitol Press Corps.

