

By: Senator(s) Harden, Hall, Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 32  
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING FORMER TOUGALOO COLLEGE PRESIDENT  
2 GEORGE A. OWENS, RECIPIENT OF THE ANNUAL FRIENDSHIP AWARD  
3 PRESENTED BY JACKSON 2000.

4 WHEREAS, Tougaloo College welcomed many of the nation's civil  
5 rights leaders during the 1960's, and years later built bridges  
6 with Jackson's business community; and

7 WHEREAS, former President George A. Owens, who served from  
8 1964 to 1984, deserves much of the credit for connecting Tougaloo  
9 College with the local business community; and

10 WHEREAS, Owens, Tougaloo's ninth and first black president  
11 and former captain of the school's football team in 1940,  
12 continues to spark change that has enriched his alma mater; and

13 WHEREAS, his community leadership and role to improve race  
14 relations are why he will be one of two Mississippians honored at  
15 the annual Friendship Ball as a recipient of the Friendship Award  
16 presented by Jackson 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, Tougaloo hasn't forgotten him, its new \$6 Million  
18 health and wellness center that includes a 2,500-seat gymnasium is  
19 named for George Owens and his wife, Ruth; and

20 WHEREAS, not content to sit back and enjoy retirement in  
21 Jackson, Owens has stayed active over the years with the Boy  
22 Scouts, he regularly comes to programs on the Tougaloo campus and  
23 remains a trusted friend to school leaders; and

24 WHEREAS, Tougaloo College has a tradition of freedom, and it  
25 is with great pride that we recognize this modest man who was able  
26 to build relationships between the black and white community:

27       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
28       MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend former Tougaloo College  
29       President George A. Owens upon his receipt of the Annual  
30       Friendship Award sponsored by Jackson 2000, to be presented at the  
31       annual Friendship Ball to be held on Saturday, February 27, 1999.

32       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
33       presented to Mr. Owens and his family and be made available to the  
34       Capitol Press Corps.