

By: Johnson (19th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 527

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF FORMER
2 SENATOR BURTON MCMILLAN, THE OLDEST LIVING FORMER MISSISSIPPI
3 LEGISLATOR.

4 WHEREAS, former Senator Burton McMillan represented Leake
5 County from 1940-1948, served under four Governors, and is thought
6 to be the oldest living former Mississippi legislator; and

7 WHEREAS, McMillan's Mississippi roots run deep: he was born
8 December 10, 1907, in Attala County, was quite athletic, played
9 football at a junior college in Carthage, Mississippi, (which
10 later became East Central Mississippi Community College), in 1926,
11 he attended Delta State College on a work scholarship, while
12 earning a Master's Degree in History at Mississippi State
13 University, he taught at Leake County Agricultural High School and
14 later taught English at a Choctaw school in Leake County which
15 eventually led to his work at Navajo schools in the west, and now
16 he is back home in Mississippi residing in the State Veterans
17 Nursing Home in Kosciusko, continuing at the age of 92 to keep up
18 with politics; and

19 WHEREAS, he ran for the Senate in 1939, receiving about 1,700
20 of the 2,500 votes cast in his district, and joined a group of
21 legislators who resided for \$1.00 a day at The Edward House, later

22 to be known as the King Edward Hotel, and were characterized by
23 the newspapers as "the biggest spenders in the history of the
24 state" even though they saved enough money to declare the state
25 debt-free in 1945; and

26 WHEREAS, McMillan, 37 at the time, was one of the Mississippi
27 legislators who were well beyond draft age but voluntarily joined
28 the Army solely to serve during World War II, serving as an Army
29 clerk for 18 months in northern Europe and returning in time for
30 the 1946 Regular Session; and

31 WHEREAS, veterans were popular legislators, and McMillan
32 helped push through a controversial bill to build Mississippi
33 Veterans Memorial Stadium in Jackson, taking advantage in the huge
34 interest in athletics in post-war Mississippi; and

35 WHEREAS, on his ring finger is his wedding band which is a
36 tribute to his wife of nearly 50 years, the former Evelyn Sanders
37 who died in 1985, and who McMillan met at Delta State; and

38 WHEREAS, the passing of the 20th Century provides Burton with
39 time for reflection, and he attributes the development of the
40 atomic bomb and man landing on the moon as the top stories of the
41 century; and

42 WHEREAS, he anxiously awaits the annual Mississippi Senators
43 grand reunion, where he is a favorite of all former Senators and
44 an inspiration to all who attend; and

45 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
46 well-known former Senator who still feels that Mississippi does
47 things better than any other state:

48 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
50 we do hereby commend the career of Senator Burton McMillan, the
51 oldest living former Mississippi legislator, and wish him success
52 in his future endeavors.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
54 presented to Senator Burton McMillan and be made available to the
55 Capitol Press Corps.