

By: Michel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 583

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THURMON L. "BOBBY"
2 COLLINS, JR. FOR HIS OUTSTANDING COACHING CAREER AND
3 CONGRATULATING HIM UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS
4 HALL OF FAME.

5 WHEREAS, Thurmon L. "Bobby" Collins, Jr., will be inducted
6 into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame on March 10, 2000; and

7 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins' induction into the Mississippi Sports
8 Hall of Fame is in recognition of his coaching accomplishments and
9 his contributions to the athletic community; and

10 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins was an outstanding high school
11 quarterback at Laurel High School; and

12 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins played football at Mississippi State
13 University from 1951 through 1954, lettering all four years; and

14 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins was starting quarterback and
15 co-captain of the bulldogs in his senior season; and

16 WHEREAS, after graduation, Bobby served as backfield coach at
17 Colorado State, Mississippi State and George Washington
18 University; and

19 WHEREAS, in 1964, Bobby switched sides of the football and
20 served as defensive coordinator at Virginia Tech until 1967; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1967, Bobby returned to guiding the offense when
22 he went to North Carolina; and

23 WHEREAS, the North Carolina offense led the ACC in total
24 offense and scoring in three of the five years that Collins
25 coached at Chapel Hill; and

26 WHEREAS, in 1971, he was named assistant head coach and
27 defensive coordinator of the North Carolina Tar Heels; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1975, the University of Southern Mississippi
29 picked Bobby Collins as head coach; and

30 WHEREAS, from 1975 through 1981, Bobby led the University of
31 Southern Mississippi football team to national prominence; and

32 WHEREAS, the hallmark of the Golden Eagle football team under
33 Bobby's leadership was a tenacious, hard-hitting team that came to
34 play 60 minutes of football every week; and

35 WHEREAS, Bobby led the Golden Eagles to their first two bowl
36 appearances as a Division 1A program; and

37 WHEREAS, in 1980, his team finished with 9 wins and only 3
38 losses with a win in the Independence Bowl; and

39 WHEREAS, in 1981, he led the Golden Eagles to a 9-2-1 mark,
40 an appearance in the Tangerine Bowl and a ranking of 18th
41 nationally; and

42 WHEREAS, under the enthusiastic, tireless, and charismatic
43 leadership of Bobby Collins a unique relationship developed
44 between Coach Collins and the Hattiesburg community, the fans, the
45 alumni, and the team which is best described as Eagle Fever; and

46 WHEREAS, in recognition of Bobby's ability to accomplish so
47 much with a football program with far fewer resources than those
48 of opposing teams, SMU convinced Bobby Collins to head their
49 football program in 1982; and

50 WHEREAS, Bobby led the SMU Mustangs to national rankings and
51 bowl wins; and

52 WHEREAS, his team in 1982 was the only unbeaten team in the
53 nation and finished with a No. 2 national ranking and a Cotton
54 Bowl victory over Pittsburgh; and

55 WHEREAS, in 1983 and 1984, Bobby's Mustangs finished with ten
56 wins and only two losses; and

57 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins was honored as the Southwest
58 Conference Coach of the Year in 1982; and

59 WHEREAS, his 1983, SMU team has the unique distinction of
60 playing in three bowl games in one year by playing in the Cotton

61 Bowl in January, the Mirage Bowl in Tokyo, Japan, on November 26,
62 and the Sun Bowl on December 24; and

63 WHEREAS, in 1986, Bobby retired from coaching and returned
64 home to Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and

65 WHEREAS, in 1992, USM President Aubrey Lucas called upon
66 Bobby Collins to assist in building the USM Eagle Club; and

67 WHEREAS, under Bobby's leadership, the USM Eagle Club set new
68 fundraising and membership records; and

69 WHEREAS, Bobby Collins has earned the respect and admiration
70 of his peers, his players and all who have been fortunate to know
71 Bobby; and

72 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize the
73 accomplishments and contributions of its outstanding citizens:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
75 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
76 we do hereby commend Thurmon L. "Bobby" Collins, Jr., for his
77 outstanding accomplishments in his coaching career and his
78 contributions to his state and community and congratulate him upon
79 his induction into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
81 presented to Bobby Collins.