

By: Michel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 586

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE POSTHUMOUS INDUCTION
2 OF BUTCH LAMBERT, SR., INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME
3 CLASS OF 2000.

4 WHEREAS, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports
5 Hall of Fame have unveiled the historic Class of 2000 of the
6 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame with induction ceremonies to be
7 held on Friday, March 10, 2000, in Jackson; and

8 WHEREAS, the MSHOF Class of 2000 features induction of the
9 late Butch Lambert, Sr., a native of Holcut, Mississippi, who was
10 an outstanding SEC football official, State Tax Commissioner and
11 veteran member of the House of Representatives, and whose sports
12 career is a matter of record:

13 Butch played every sport in high school and graduated from
14 Itawamba Agricultural High School in Fulton in the war year of
15 1941; like most high school graduates at this time in Mississippi,
16 Butch volunteered for military duty and served in the U.S. Navy
17 from 1943 through 1946; he played center on the Great Lakes
18 National Service Championship football team which was coached by
19 famed NFL Coach Paul Brown; on January 3, 1942, he married Ida
20 Yvonne Gilliland, who still resides in Tupelo; after leaving the
21 service, Butch attended Ole Miss from 1946 through 1948 during the
22 arrival of Johnny Vaught and his staff in 1947; injured while
23 playing center for the Rebels, Coach Vaught allowed Lambert to
24 stay on the squad as a manager and he lettered in 1948 as a
25 manager/trainer and was a member of the M-Club; he also served as
26 manager for the Rebel basketball team; upon graduation from Ole
27 Miss, Butch entered the coaching profession at Southwest Junior
28 College in Summit where he was an assistant football coach and

29 head basketball coach; in 1949, Butch returned home to Fulton
30 where he was hired as the first head football coach and athletic
31 director of Itawamba Junior College; he also coached the
32 basketball and baseball teams at Itawamba; while coaching at
33 Itawamba, Butch organized and coached in the first Little League
34 organization in the Fulton area; he coached Little League teams in
35 Tupelo for seven years; Lambert remained in coaching until 1952
36 when he accepted a position as field representative for the
37 Mississippi Tax Commission; it was during this time period that
38 Butch became certified as a football official for the famed
39 Southeastern Conference; he was a line judge in the SEC from 1953
40 through 1982; Lambert officiated in every position except for
41 referee in his SEC career; Butch also called SEC basketball games
42 for 20 years from 1953 through 1973; he was selected to officiate
43 in four NCAA Regional Tournaments; in 1956, Butch made another
44 career change as he was named Director of Employee Relations for
45 Rockwell International in Tupelo and Jackson, Tennessee; during
46 his employment with Rockwell, Butch developed into one of the best
47 football officials not only in the SEC, but in the nation; Lambert
48 served as President of the SEC Football Officials Association; he
49 was Chief Line Judge for the SEC in 1980-1981; Butch entered the
50 political arena in 1960 as he was elected to the House of
51 Representatives for Lee and Itawamba Counties through 1964; he was
52 Lee County Representative from 1968 through 1980; Lambert was
53 Chairman of the powerful Ways & Means Committee from 1974 until
54 his retirement after service as vice chairman of the committee for
55 four years; in 1980, Butch was appointed by Governor William
56 Winter to be the Commissioner of Revenue for the State of
57 Mississippi and he retired from the State Legislature and Rockwell
58 to perform this task; Butch took on the job at a time when the Tax
59 Commission, the ABC (Alcohol Beverage Control) and Motor Vehicle
60 Agencies were combined; Lambert retired from active officiating in
61 1982, but served as an SEC Technical Advisor and Official
62 Supervisor until his death in 1985; he was selected to officiate
63 12 postseason games including the 1965 Sugar Bowl as an alternate,
64 the 1968 Peach Bowl, the 1969 Bluebonnet Bowl, the 1972 Liberty

65 Bowl, the 1973 Gator Bowl, the 1975 Orange Bowl, the 1976 Gator
66 Bowl, the 1977 Independence Bowl, the 1978 Gator Bowl, the 1980
67 Liberty Bowl and back-to-back Orange Bowls in 1981 and 1982; of
68 the 12 bowl games in which Butch had officiated, six of those
69 games were thrillers, decided by three points or less; he
70 officiated two national championship games, the 1975 Orange Bowl
71 won by Notre Dame over Alabama 13-11 and the 1982 Orange Bowl won
72 by Clemson 22-15 over Nebraska; the 1982 Orange Bowl was his final
73 bowl game and he retired after working the 1982 Senior Bowl in
74 Mobile, Alabama, the 12th Senior Bowl he worked in his career;
75 Butch's most famous on-the-field moment as an official happened on
76 December 29, 1978, at the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida,
77 when Ohio State Head Coach Woody Hayes punched a Clemson player on
78 the Buckeye sidelines; the Tigers had just intercepted a pass
79 sealing a 17-15 win for new Clemson Head Coach Danny Ford when the
80 play ended near Hayes on the OSU sidelines; in frustration for the
81 wayward pass, Hayes threw a "haymaker" at a Clemson player in
82 front of Butch, who penalized Ohio State; Butch and the fiery
83 Buckeye mentor would become friends in later years; Coach Hayes
84 sent Butch a congratulatory telegram that was read during the
85 ceremonies naming Mississippi Veteran's Memorial Stadium in
86 Butch's honor; Butch's great reputation among fellow officials and
87 numerous college coaches is legendary and he had a national
88 reputation as an outstanding SEC official; for his long and
89 distinguished career in athletics, Butch received several unique
90 honors; he was the recipient of the Distinguished American Award
91 from the Central Mississippi Chapter of the National Football
92 Foundation and Hall of Fame in 1980; following his death in
93 January 1985, the field at Mississippi Veteran's Memorial football
94 stadium was named the A.C. Butch Lambert Field on October 12,
95 1985, at the game between Ole Miss and Georgia; he received an
96 additional posthumous honor in special dedication ceremonies on
97 October 8, 1994, when the new football stadium at Itawamba
98 Community College in Fulton was named A.C. Butch Lambert Stadium;
99 in August 1995, Butch received the first All-American Foundation
100 football officials award posthumously; the foundation established

101 the award now known as the Butch Lambert Football Officials Award
102 to annually honor football officials across the nation for
103 outstanding performance in college and professional football;
104 Butch and his wife, Yvonne, are the parents of four children:
105 Vicki Lambert Mixon of Jackson; Amy Lambert of Jackson; Scott
106 Lambert of Orlando, Florida; and Butch Lambert, Jr., of Jackson;
107 and

108 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the memory
109 of our former colleague, who brought honor to the State of
110 Mississippi on the playing field and in the halls of the New
111 Capitol:

112 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
113 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
114 we do hereby recognize the Posthumous Induction of Butch Lambert,
115 Sr., into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2000, and
116 send the Legislature's respect and admiration of him to his family
117 on this occasion.

118 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
119 presented to the family of Butch Lambert, Sr., at induction
120 ceremonies and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.