

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Gordon, Michel,  
Frazier, Harden, Ross

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 580

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF ROBERT SILBER  
2 MCGOWAN AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
3 UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Colonel Robert Silber McGowan, Director of Grace  
5 House, departed this life on February 4, 2001; and

6 WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan was the first director of Grace  
7 House, a home for living, for people who have the HIV disease; and

8 WHEREAS, as the only full-time employee of this ministry,  
9 Colonel McGowan was responsible for the safety and well-being of  
10 the residents, fundraising, fiscal accountability and maintenance  
11 of house and grounds; and

12 WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan was a spokesman for Grace House and  
13 provided the community with general awareness of the HIV disease,  
14 serving on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, during his military career, Colonel McGowan served  
17 his country in the Army as an enlisted man, a cadet at West Point  
18 and an officer for more than 31 years; and

19 WHEREAS, a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, Colonel  
20 McGowan earned his master's degree from Columbia University in New  
21 York City and was an assistant professor on the faculty of his  
22 alma mater for four years; and

23 WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan's military service included combat  
24 duty in Korea, service on the White House staff and three  
25 volunteer tours of duty in Vietnam, spanning ten years from  
26 1963-1972, where he was wounded in action three times; and

27           WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan commanded the Third Squadron, Fourth  
28 U.S. Cavalry of the 25th Infantry Division during some of the  
29 heaviest fighting of the war; and

30           WHEREAS, after other commands and retiring from active  
31 service, Colonel McGowan served on the International Staff at NATO  
32 Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium; and

33           WHEREAS, Colonel McGowan was a graduate of the National War  
34 College, the Army War College, the State Department Senior Seminar  
35 in Foreign Policy and the Army Command and General Staff College;  
36 and

37           WHEREAS, his military awards included the Army Distinguished  
38 Service Cross, four Silver Star Medals, two Distinguished Flying  
39 Crosses, three Purple Hearts, eight Bronze Star Medals (five for  
40 valor), thirty-six Air Medals, three Legions of Merit, the Combat  
41 Infantryman's Badge, the Presidential Service Badge and other  
42 decorations; and

43           WHEREAS, Robert Silber McGowan will be sorely missed by his  
44 wife, children, grandchildren, a brother and sister, and a host of  
45 other relatives and friends:

46           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
47 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
48 we do hereby commend the life of Robert Silber McGowan and express  
49 our deepest sympathy to his family upon his passing.

50           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
51 furnished to the family of Colonel Robert S. McGowan and made  
52 available to the Capitol Press Corps.