

By: Senator(s) Little, Burton, Gollott, Gordon, Smith, Farris, Carmichael, Huggins, Horhn, Hamilton, Frazier, Jordan, Harden, Dearing, Lee, Moffatt, Harvey, Kirby, White (29th), Posey, Furniss, Jackson, Chaney, King, Ross, Hewes

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 502

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER STATE SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE GLEN
3 DEWEESE OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF
4 THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, few business, civic and political leaders have left
6 more significant footprints across the sands of Mississippi
7 history than did former State Senate President Pro Tempore Glen
8 Deweese of Meridian, Mississippi, who died Thursday, September 27,
9 2001; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Deweese served in the Senate from 1976-1992;
11 he was Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman from 1980-1988 and
12 Senate President Pro Tempore from 1986-1992, a position denoting
13 both his legislative ability and the esteem in which he was held
14 by his colleagues; and

15 WHEREAS, his legislative legacy is one of fiscal
16 responsibility and support of economic development, highway
17 construction and the state's community college system; the
18 highlight of his political career was the Education Reform Act of
19 1982, which he had said was a vehicle steering education in a new
20 direction in the state; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Deweese was Chairman and CEO of the
22 Superstop! convenience store chain, with 72 stores in Jackson,
23 Meridian, Greenville and Birmingham, that employ some 500 workers;
24 he was re-elected last month to a second consecutive term as
25 Chairman of the East Mississippi Business Development Corporation
26 in Meridian; he was a backbone of church, civic, scouting and
27 economic development efforts across the state; and

28 WHEREAS, his life story is compelling: Deweese's father was
29 a sharecropper who later served 12 years as a county supervisor
30 and 12 years as a Philadelphia City Alderman; Senator Deweese, a
31 Neshoba County native, graduated from Philadelphia High, married,
32 served in the Army and went to work as a salesman; while
33 supporting his family, Deweese enrolled in then-Hinds Junior
34 College in 1956 and used the G.I. bill to earn his degree through
35 three years of night school; in 1993, he was named Hinds Community
36 College Alumnus of the Year; and

37 WHEREAS, former Governor William Winter delivered the eulogy
38 at the services: "Of all the men and women that I served with
39 over 40 years in politics in Mississippi, he was one of a half
40 dozen that I consider to be most effective in getting really
41 meaningful public policies adopted in the State of Mississippi; he
42 understood the state, the needs of the state, and he had that rare
43 ability to combine his vision for the state with the
44 consensus-building capacity that got people to agree with him";
45 and

46 WHEREAS, Senator Deweese was a man of honesty, integrity and
47 vision for Mississippi's future; as a powerful, influential State
48 Senator, he served the taxpayers of Mississippi ably and well; as
49 a business and civic leader, he gave of his resources to leave
50 this state far better than he found it; and

51 WHEREAS, Mississippi will long remember this good, decent
52 man, with whom we recall countless memories as a politician and
53 friend:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
56 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of public service of
57 former State Senate President Pro Tempore Glen Deweese of
58 Meridian, Mississippi, and express to his family the sympathy of
59 the Legislature on his passing.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
61 Senator Deweese's wife, Janice, and members of his family, and
62 that copies be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.