

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF TERREL
2 "T.J." RANCE OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY
3 OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, Terrel Julius "T.J." Rance, longtime resident of
5 Jackson, Mississippi, and well-known activist in civic and
6 charitable programs in the community, died on Monday, October 29,
7 2001; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Rance was born July 21, 1921, in Fernwood,
9 Mississippi, to the late Henry and Christine Rance. He received
10 his early education at Oak Park High School in Laurel,
11 Mississippi. He enlisted in the United States Army, 924th Air
12 Base Security Battalion, where he served as a Staff Sergeant in
13 World War II. Afterwards, he received his Bachelor of Science
14 degree from Tougaloo College and obtained his Masters from
15 Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois; and

16 WHEREAS, On December 20, 1970, Terrel was united in holy
17 matrimony to Bertha Lee Handy. Together they had five children.
18 In addition to being a wonderful husband and father, Terrel was a
19 well-known person throughout the State of Mississippi. He began
20 his career as a teacher at Eva Harris High School in Brookhaven,
21 Mississippi, where he later became principal. Early in the 1970's
22 he moved to Jackson to work for the state as a Senior Health Care
23 Planner until he retired in 1984. Additionally, he actively
24 participated in various community organizations. He was a
25 dedicated member of Morning Star Baptist Church; and

26 WHEREAS, T.J. was very active in the political campaigns of
27 many state, county and local office holders over the years, and

28 was particularly active in community, civic and charitable
29 programs; and

30 WHEREAS, one of T.J.'s most outstanding programs was serving
31 as President of the Board of Directors of the Center for
32 Independent Learning, Inc., a residential facility for female
33 offenders and parolees funded through a grant from the Mississippi
34 Department of Mental Health, which was a transition for these
35 individuals to find meaningful employment and life following
36 incarceration; and

37 WHEREAS, Terrel leaves to cherish his memory his devoted wife
38 of 31 years, Bertha Rance, six children, Marionette Hamilton,
39 Janet Holmes, Charles Rance, Stacey Rance Gaines (Ernest), Crystal
40 Monique McLin and LaTasha Estus (Terry). A daughter, Veronica
41 Renea Ellis, preceded him in death. Other survivors are five
42 grandchildren, Donnel Ellis, Valyn Ellis, Julius Ellis,
43 Christopher Hall and Matthew Gaines; a sister, Vivian Broussard of
44 Houston Texas, two brothers, Johnny Rance, Yakima, Washington, and
45 Willie Chester, Houston, Texas; first cousins, Pearl Drew, Dorothy
46 Hardy, Linda Henderson and Vera Davis; sisters-in-law and
47 brothers-in-law, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many
48 friends; and

49 WHEREAS, we will miss our friend T.J. Rance who has brought
50 so much to his community and to the State of Mississippi:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
52 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life and public service
53 of Terrel "T.J." Rance of Jackson, Mississippi, and express to his
54 family the sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
56 his wife and surviving family, and be made available to the
57 Capitol Press Corps.