

By: Representatives Reynolds, Ryals

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 98

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF MR. CALVIN
2 BRUCE GURNER AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND
3 FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Calvin Bruce Gurner departed this life on
5 February 18, 2002, causing great sorrow and loss to his family and
6 friends; and

7 WHEREAS, a native of Water Valley, Mississippi, Mr. Gurner
8 was born January 1, 1920, to Mr. B.G. and Mrs. Jane Gurner; and

9 WHEREAS, attending the Water Valley public school system, Mr.
10 Gurner graduated from Water Valley High School in 1936, and
11 attended Holmes Junior College in Goodman before going to Paducah,
12 Kentucky, where he became a machinist apprentice with Illinois
13 Central Railroad's locomotive shop; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Gurner became a fireman in 1941, working there
15 until joining the Army Air Corps later in that year, spending a
16 majority of his service with the 11th Weather Squadron in the
17 Aleutian Islands; and

18 WHEREAS, after the war's end, Mr. Gurner returned to
19 Kentucky, working the Kentucky Division of Illinois Central
20 Railroad until 1945, when he took leave to enter the University of
21 Mississippi, earning his bachelor's degree in geology in 1948, and
22 later earning his master's degree in education; and

23 WHEREAS, teaching at University High School and Oxford High
24 School while working on the railroad during summers and holidays,
25 Mr. Gurner decided to railroad full time from 1965 to 1967, being
26 promoted to engineer in 1966 before returning to the educational
27 setting as a guidance counselor at Charleston in 1967; and



28 WHEREAS, Mr. Gurner, whose interest in railroading began in
29 the late 1920s, began the hobby of collecting railroad memorabilia
30 in 1955, when the Water Valley depot was being torn down; and

31 WHEREAS, upon discovering 92 train sheets listing the famous
32 railroader, Casey Jones, Mr. Gurner spent the next 50 years
33 researching the legend and the Mississippi Division of the
34 Illinois Central Railroad, which was headquartered in Water
35 Valley; and

36 WHEREAS, Mr. Gurner, throughout the 1970s was active in many
37 historical projects, compiling information for the Yalobusha
38 County History book and also a book of his own entitled "Casey
39 Jones and the Wreck at Vaughn"; and

40 WHEREAS, an avid outdoorsman and Yalobusha County's Veteran's
41 Administration representative for 12 years, Mr. Gurner joined the
42 First Baptist Church of Water Valley in 1939, and taught the men's
43 Bible class for more than 45 years; and

44 WHEREAS, Mr. Gurner married the former Betty Jo Evans on May
45 6, 1950, and to their sacred union, six children were born: Bill
46 Gurner, Hugh Gurner, Richard Gurner, Melissa Gurner Burrell,
47 Robert Gurner and Joe Gurner; and

48 WHEREAS, the memories of Mr. Gurner will continue to live on
49 in the hearts of his loving and devoted wife, six children, twelve
50 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and

51 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to pay special
52 tribute to the life of such an outstanding individual as Mr.
53 Calvin Bruce Gurner, whose historical contributions to the people
54 of Water Valley and Yalobusha County has had a profound impact on
55 the lives of many:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
57 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
58 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life of Mr. Calvin Bruce
59 Gurner and extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends
60 upon his passing.



61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
62 furnished to the family of Mr. Calvin Bruce Gurner and the members
63 of the Capitol Press Corps.

