

By: Senator(s) Huggins, Dearing, Gordon,  
Carlton, Smith

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 530

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF LONGTIME DELTA  
2 COUNCIL EXECUTIVE B.F. SMITH OF LELAND, MISSISSIPPI, AND  
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE ON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, longtime Chief Executive Officer of the Delta  
5 Council and World War II Veteran B.F. Smith of Leland,  
6 Mississippi, passed away on January 12, 2003; and

7 WHEREAS, a native of Greenwood, Mississippi, and a 1935  
8 graduate of Greenwood High School, Mr. Smith was known for his  
9 efforts to improve the quality of life in the Delta. He was the  
10 longtime Chief Executive Officer for Delta Council, a  
11 Stoneville-based regional economic development and farm  
12 organization; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was recognized throughout the state and  
14 country. His work impacted higher education, health care, flood  
15 control, highway development and national policies concerning  
16 agriculture; and

17 WHEREAS, he really took over Delta Council when it was  
18 relatively small and carried it on. He believed that the Delta  
19 was the best place to live and spent his entire life trying to  
20 improve the conditions of the area; and

21 WHEREAS, he established the industrial arm of the Delta  
22 Council and helped them bring industry into the Delta; and

23 WHEREAS, he received much recognition for his work. He was  
24 awarded the Harry Baker Leadership Award, the cotton industry's  
25 top recognition; the Silver Beaver Award for his record of  
26 longtime service to the Boy Scouts of America; and was inducted  
27 into the U.S. Cotton Industry Hall of Fame in 1982; and



28           WHEREAS, early in his career, he taught in Arcola and Jackson  
29 before entering World War II in 1942. He worked for the Veterans  
30 Administration in 1946, before being named as Assistant Manager  
31 for Delta Council on May 1, 1947. He was made executive vice  
32 president in 1948, and served as chief executive officer until  
33 1982; and

34           WHEREAS, in 1988, the first \$1 Million endowment ever made to  
35 Delta State University was established by Delta farmers and  
36 businesses in his honor; and

37           WHEREAS, upon his retirement, thousands of people, including  
38 politicians and ordinary citizens, gathered at the Walter Sillers  
39 Coliseum at Delta State University to pay tribute to his career  
40 with Delta Council; and

41           WHEREAS, his relationship with political powers that be in  
42 the national Congress and with Presidents over the years was  
43 remarkable; and

44           WHEREAS, he was a graduate of Sunflower Junior College and  
45 Delta State University. He was a member of Leland United  
46 Methodist Church, where he served as a Sunday School teacher for  
47 40 years, church lay leader and past Chairman of the  
48 Administrative Council; and

49           WHEREAS, Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Mary Alyce Smith  
50 of Leland; a daughter, Le'Laine Smith Weilenman of Stoneville; a  
51 son, James W. Smith of Greenville; six grandchildren; and five  
52 great-grandchildren; and

53           WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this  
54 highly respected man whose service to the Delta region has  
55 improved the economy and quality of life for the entire state of  
56 Mississippi:

57           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
58 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
59 we do hereby commend the life of longtime Delta Council Chief  
60 Executive Officer B.F. Smith of Leland, Mississippi, for his



61 highly respected work to improve the economy and quality of life  
62 in the Delta, and express the sympathy of the Legislature to his  
63 surviving family on his passing.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
65 Mr. Smith's wife, Mary Alyce Smith, and be forwarded to the Delta  
66 Council, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

