

By: Senator(s) Little

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 555

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING FORMER MISSISSIPPI
2 GOVERNOR WILLIAM WINTER ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY AND COMMENDING HIS
3 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.

4 WHEREAS, probably no one Southern politician has given more
5 of his life to the cause of race relations than former Governor
6 William Forrest Winter; and

7 WHEREAS, a February 20, 2003, symposium "The Future of Race
8 in America," and a reception will mark the public celebration of
9 Governor Winter's 80th birthday; and

10 WHEREAS, these public events at the Old Capitol in Jackson
11 are hosted by the University of Mississippi and its Institute for
12 Racial Reconciliation, and will feature presentations by panelists
13 prominent in history, journalism and politics; and

14 WHEREAS, William Winter, an Ole Miss alumnus in private law
15 practice in Jackson, was the State's Chief Executive from 1980 to
16 1984. Passage of the groundbreaking Education Reform Act of 1982
17 (which is now 20 years old) is widely recognized as one of his
18 administration's most significant achievements, but his long-held
19 belief in racial equity has been a leading factor in
20 accomplishments throughout his personal and public life; and

21 WHEREAS, William Winter's career of public service began as a
22 University of Mississippi law student when he succeeded his father
23 in the House of Representatives. As State Tax Collector, he
24 successfully pushed legislation to have the office abolished. He
25 also distinguished himself as State Treasurer and Lieutenant
26 Governor. But his best known legacy came when as Governor he
27 called the Legislature into Extraordinary Session in the newly



28 renovated New Capitol Building to consider and pass the nation's
29 first truly comprehensive education reform act, which among other
30 things established Mississippi's first public kindergarten for all
31 children; and

32 WHEREAS, the achievements of his governorship (1980-1984)
33 were a result of his integrity, his strength of character, his
34 courage and his unique ability to bring together highly energetic
35 people and convince them to work and accomplish his goals and his
36 vision for Mississippi; and

37 WHEREAS, since stepping down from public office, Winter has
38 continued to work for the public good throughout his home state,
39 the region and the country. He has received national recognition
40 for his promotion of public education and racial reconciliation.
41 He received the 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award from
42 the National Education Association. A contributing author on
43 three books, he has taught at Harvard, Millsaps College, the
44 University of Mississippi Law School and Mississippi Valley State.
45 He has chaired numerous boards, including the Commission on the
46 Future of the South and the National Civic League. He has been on
47 the State Archives and History board since 1957, and the agency's
48 new building in downtown Jackson bears his name. In 1992,
49 President Clinton tapped Winter to lead a national initiative on
50 racial reconciliation, and in 2002 he received the Mid South
51 Foundation Leadership Award; and

52 WHEREAS, Nobel Laureate and former President Jimmy Carter
53 recently termed Winter "the father of education reform in the
54 South...a beacon of hope to a generation of Mississippians during
55 a period of radical changes," and United States Senator Thad
56 Cochran hailed Winter as "one of the finest citizens our state has
57 ever produced"; and

58 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
59 quintessential statesman who has brought honor to the State of
60 Mississippi:



61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
62 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
63 we do hereby congratulate our friend, former Governor William
64 Forrest Winter, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, extend to
65 him the greetings and best wishes of the Legislature, and commend
66 him for his legacy of unselfish and generous contributions to the
67 betterment of our state.

68 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
69 Governor Winter and his family in the Senate chamber where he once
70 presided, be forwarded to the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi
71 Department of Archives and History and be made available to the
72 Capitol Press Corps.

