

By: Senator(s) Burton, Chaney, Frazier,
Little

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 541

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MARY
2 KATHARINE LOYACONO MCCRAVEY, AN ICON IN THE WORLD OF ART, UPON HER
3 RECEIPT OF THE 2004 GOVERNOR'S EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS "LIFETIME
4 ACHIEVEMENT" AWARD.

5 WHEREAS, Mary Katharine Loyacono McCravey, an icon in the
6 world of Art, is the recipient of the 2004 Governor's Excellence
7 in the Arts Award in the category of "Lifetime Achievement"; and

8 WHEREAS, Mary Katharine Knoblock Loyacono McCravey was born
9 on April 1, 1910, in Forest, Mississippi, to Ruben Julius
10 Knoblock, originally from Lafayette, Indiana, and Mary Belle
11 (Tillman) Knoblock, originally from Magnolia, Mississippi. She
12 first studied Art in her junior year of high school, 1926-1927,
13 and later graduated from Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi,
14 in 1932 with majors in Art and Spanish. However, the desperate
15 times of the Great Depression afforded no opportunities for any
16 career, especially in Art or Spanish. After college, McCravey
17 worked with the W.P.A., establishing libraries in Scott County,
18 Mississippi; and

19 WHEREAS, by 1937, Jackson Public Schools began to offer Art
20 classes and McCravey took a job teaching Art at Enochs Junior High
21 School. She later transferred to Central High School in Jackson,
22 where she taught until 1945, and then she transferred to Provine
23 High School, where she taught until 1968. During these years, she
24 served with dedication to instruct and inspire many of the state's
25 most recognized and accomplished artists; and

26 WHEREAS, she has studied at the University of Chicago, the
27 Art Institute of Chicago, the University of Colorado, the Art

28 Colony in Rockport at Cape Ann, Massachusetts, and the Art Colony
29 of Taos in New Mexico; and

30 WHEREAS, McCravey's painting career began while she was
31 teaching at Central High School and was invited by Richard McRae
32 to exhibit and sell her work, along with other outstanding local
33 artists at his newly built department store in the Meadowbrook
34 area of Jackson. She signed those early paintings "Loyacono" and,
35 after the exhibit, went on to create paintings that were admired
36 and sought after by her colleagues in the world of Art and were in
37 great demand by the general public as well; and

38 WHEREAS, an icon in the world of Art, McCravey has been
39 featured in many exhibitions, honored with many one-woman shows
40 and is included in museum, corporate, school, college, library and
41 private collections across the South and nation; and

42 WHEREAS, in 1968, her marriage to W.D. "Bill" McCravey took
43 her back to Forest, Mississippi, and, for the past 24 years, she
44 has painted primarily for exhibits and has fully donated her
45 artwork to fundraising events; and

46 WHEREAS, many charitable organizations have been enriched
47 through her generous contributions. McCravey's graciousness and
48 generosity earned her, along with Bill, a 1986 recognition as
49 "Citizen of the Year" by the Forest Chamber of Commerce. In 1987,
50 Forest Community Arts proclaimed Mary Katharine McCravey Day; and
51 one of her most cherished honors was being acclaimed "1972
52 Belhaven Alumnus of the Year," 40 years after her graduation; and

53 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the unique
54 talents and charitable public service of this citizen who has
55 brought honor to her community and to the State of Mississippi:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby commend and congratulate Mary Katharine Loyacono
59 McCravey, an icon in the world of Art whose generous contributions
60 of Art to charitable causes is legendary, upon her receipt of the

61 2004 Governor's Excellence in the Arts "Lifetime Achievement"
62 Award, and wish her and her family success in their future
63 endeavors.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
65 Mrs. McCravey at induction ceremonies on February 13, 2004, and be
66 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.