

By: Senator(s) Michel, Browning, Butler,
Carmichael, Chamberlin, Clarke, Dearing,
Frazier, Gordon, Harden, Jackson (15th),
Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Little,
Posey, Robertson, Thames

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 572

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JOHNIE
2 COOKS, EXCELLENT ALL-AMERICAN MISSISSIPPI STATE AND NATIONAL
3 FOOTBALL LEAGUE LINEBACKER, UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE
4 MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME, CLASS OF 2004.

5 WHEREAS, the Jackson Touchdown Club and Mississippi Sports
6 Hall of Fame has unveiled the Class of 2004 of the Mississippi
7 Sports Hall of Fame, which features Johnie Cooks, excellent
8 All-American Mississippi State University linebacker and National
9 Football League linebacker with the Baltimore Colts; and

10 WHEREAS, a three-sport letterman for Leland High School,
11 Johnie Cooks lettered four years at Mississippi State University
12 from 1977 through 1981, including a redshirt injury season in
13 1979; and

14 WHEREAS, named Second Team All-Southeastern Conference by the
15 Associated Press as a Sophomore in 1978, he helped the Mississippi
16 State Bulldogs to achieve the school's first ever back-to-back
17 bowl appearances in 1980 and 1981, and was instrumental in one of
18 the biggest upsets in Mississippi State University history as
19 State defeated Bear Bryant's No. 1 rated Alabama Crimson Tide 6-3
20 at Jackson, Mississippi, in a famed 1981 contest; and

21 WHEREAS, Johnie recorded 376 tackles, 241 of which were
22 unassisted, during his college career; was named "Most Valuable
23 Player" on defense in State's 10-0 win over Kansas in the Hall of
24 Fame Bowl played in Birmingham, Alabama; was three-time
25 All-Southeastern Conference player and named First Team
26 All-American by the Associated Press, Football News, Football
27 Writers Association of America, Sporting News, NEA and Hartford

28 Insurance; played in the 1982 Olympia Gold Bowl in San Diego,
29 California, and the Hula Bowl in Honolulu, Hawaii; and

30 WHEREAS, he was a first round draft choice, second player
31 picked overall in the 1982 National Football League draft by the
32 Baltimore Colts, the highest draft choice by any Mississippi State
33 University Bulldog in school history; and

34 WHEREAS, he played 10 seasons in the National Football League
35 with the Baltimore Colts, New York Giants and Cleveland Browns,
36 and developed into a pass-rushing specialist and made the National
37 Football League All-Rookie Team in 1982; he was a member of the
38 1990 New York Giants team that won the National Football League
39 title in a 20-19 thriller against the Buffalo Bills in Super Bowl
40 XXV at Tampa, Florida, and returned to Starkville, Mississippi, to
41 work for the Mississippi State University Athletic Department
42 after he completed his professional football career; and

43 WHEREAS, he was enshrined into the Mississippi State
44 University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991 and was selected as a
45 Southeastern Conference Living Legend in 1999; and

46 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
47 outstanding athlete who has brought honor to his university and to
48 the State of Mississippi:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
50 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
51 we do hereby commend and congratulate Johnie Cooks, excellent
52 All-American Mississippi State University linebacker and National
53 Football League linebacker with the Baltimore Colts, upon his
54 induction into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame, Class of 2004,
55 and wish him and his family continued success in all their future
56 endeavors.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
58 Johnie Cooks at induction ceremonies and be made available to the
59 Capitol Press Corps.