

By: Senator(s) Jackson (32nd), Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 46

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC AND CHARITABLE
2 SERVICE OF LEO "BUD" TURNER OF WAYNESBORO, MISSISSIPPI, FOR HIS
3 MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO FRIENDS OF CHILDREN OF MISSISSIPPI, INC.

4 WHEREAS, Leo Turner has faithfully served for many years on
5 the Board of Directors of Friends of Children of Mississippi,
6 Inc., to bring services to children and families in the Wayne
7 County area, and it is with appreciation that we recognize his
8 dedication and devotion to this public and charitable service; and

9 WHEREAS, Leo Turner, the eldest son of the late Mr. Bennie
10 Turner and the late Mrs. Freddie Gamblin, was born in Waynesboro,
11 Mississippi, on September 23, 1930; and

12 WHEREAS, since 1961, he owned and operated Turner Funeral
13 Home in Beaumont, Mississippi. In 1972, the business branched out
14 to Quitman, and in 1979, the business expanded to Pascagoula. For
15 a short period of time in the mid-1960's, there was also a branch
16 office in Collins, Mississippi; and

17 WHEREAS, in October of 1966, Mr. Turner joined a group of
18 neighbors in their struggle to gain funds to operate a Head Start
19 program in Wayne County, the only existing federal program that
20 offered maximum feasible participation of the poor; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Turner saw the Head Start program as a vehicle
22 to bring about much needed change in the communities served by the
23 program. Since it began, Friends of Children sponsored numerous
24 programs, in addition to Head Start, to bring services and provide
25 employment to the community. Programs such as the Summer Feeding
26 Program, Summer Youth Program, CETA Projects, etc. He was
27 instrumental in bringing a service station and felt strongly that

28 the county should have a shopping center and a community
29 cooperative cannery; and

30 WHEREAS, in April of 1969, leaders of Wayne County organized
31 the Wayne County Credit Union to benefit low-income people of the
32 county. Also, in 1969 Mr. Turner, the late Mr. Odell Gray and the
33 late Mr. Willie Hogan were heavily involved in the Wayne County
34 Voters' League in an effort to bring about political education and
35 increase political involvement in Wayne County; and

36 WHEREAS, Mr. Turner replaced the late Reverend W.G. Goff as
37 Chairman of the Board of Directors of Friends of Children of
38 Mississippi, Inc., in 1968. Over the past 36 years he has
39 demonstrated courage and vision in a fight for a cause which he
40 has made his own. Through the 1970's, he was instrumental in
41 assuring that more than \$13,000,000.00 had been provided in
42 services and employment in Wayne, Greene, Clarke and Humphreys
43 Counties; and

44 WHEREAS, in the early 1970's, new regulations were issued for
45 parent involvement. Center Committee Chairpersons must now be the
46 parent of a child currently enrolled in a Head Start center.
47 Being a person who always followed the guidelines and procedures,
48 he corrected the situation. Being a great reader of the Bible, he
49 followed the example of Job. The birth of Junior, 11-1/2 years
50 younger than Denise, and Brandice, 5 years younger than Junior,
51 assured him a position on the Center Committee throughout that
52 decade; and

53 WHEREAS, at an early age Mr. Turner realized that the only
54 important things were to serve God and his fellowman. Although he
55 was always active in the church, at 15 years of age he joined the
56 St. Luke Baptist Church, where he has been active for 59 years.
57 He is a member of the Deacon Board. Fifty-three years ago, Mr.
58 Turner joined the Masonic Lodge of Waynesboro #237. He has grown
59 from Master Mason to a 32 Degree Mason. He has also served as
60 Senior Warden, the second highest position in the lodge; and

61 WHEREAS, on April 15, 1980, the people of Waynesboro were
62 fortunate to elect Mr. Turner to its Board of Aldermen. This was
63 a position Mr. Turner would hold for 13 years, serving as Mayor
64 Pro Tem during two of his terms in office. Mr. Turner
65 demonstrated a liberal and human outlook on the problems of that
66 time and showed courage and ability to do something about them.
67 His concern for the citizens' input in situations involving the
68 City of Waynesboro exhibited great leadership; and

69 WHEREAS, on August 23, 1955, Bud Turner married Leola McGill,
70 and today they remain President and Secretary of Turner Funeral
71 Home. Mrs. Leola Turner did fulfill one of her ambitions and
72 taught school until the birth of her fourth child, Leo II. The
73 Turners were blessed with five beautiful children: four girls,
74 Olia, Anita, Denise and Brandice; and one son, "Junior." They are
75 the proud grandparents of three and great-grandparents of one; and

76 WHEREAS, Mr. Turner has been involved in the Mississippi
77 Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, the National Funeral
78 Directors and Morticians Association and the NAACP. Friends of
79 Children of Mississippi is indeed honored that Mr. Turner has
80 joined together with them to improve the conditions of the poor;
81 and

82 WHEREAS, we are extremely proud of Mr. Turner's leadership
83 and the great sacrifices he has made to realize the aims of
84 Friends of Children:

85 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
86 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the legacy of public and
87 charitable service of Leo "Bud" Turner of Waynesboro, Mississippi,
88 for his many contributions to Friends of Children of Mississippi,
89 Inc., and to the people of East Central Mississippi, and wish him
90 and his family success in their future endeavors.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
92 Leo Turner and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.