

By: Senator(s) Little, Burton

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 507

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 FORMER MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR KIRK FORDICE AND EXPRESSING THE
3 SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE ON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, former Mississippi Governor Daniel Kirkwood "Kirk"
5 Fordice, Jr., passed away on Tuesday, September 7, 2004; and

6 WHEREAS, Governor Fordice served as Governor of the State of
7 Mississippi from 1992-2000; and

8 WHEREAS, Governor Fordice will go down in history for
9 significant firsts: trailblazing as the first GOP Governor since
10 Reconstruction, establishing Mississippi as a true two-party
11 state, being the first to win back-to-back gubernatorial terms in
12 modern times, championing private enterprise, and as a
13 non-politician who earned the respect even of his foes. He left a
14 memorable, lasting mark; and

15 WHEREAS, Kirk Fordice was a true Mississippi success story.
16 He was a successful Vicksburg businessman who willed himself into
17 the State's highest office, achieving what many believed
18 impossible at the time. He focused our State's energies on
19 economic development during his terms and moved Mississippi's
20 economy into a new era of growth. He imprinted his brand of
21 fiscal conservatism on Mississippi's budget by creating the
22 first-ever "Rainy Day Fund" and leaving Mississippi's budget with
23 a surplus. He introduced welfare reform to Mississippi; and

24 WHEREAS, his frank, outspoken and unwavering style made him a
25 respected figure with his political opponents and a beloved
26 Governor by Mississippians across the state who elected him twice;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Fordice supported tort reform, aggressive law
29 enforcement and prison reform, increased tourism funding and set a
30 limit on spending. A fierce opponent of what he referred to as
31 tax-and-spend liberalism, he took frequent shots at Democratic and
32 liberal opponents; and

33 WHEREAS, he was jovial, interesting and collegial--a man's
34 man and a guy you couldn't help but enjoy being around; and

35 WHEREAS, Governor Fordice stood tall in the public arena and
36 battled tenaciously for his beliefs. At the end of the day, he
37 left Mississippi better than he found it; and

38 WHEREAS, Governor Fordice's surviving family is his former
39 wife, Pat of Madison, his daughter, Angie Roselle of Vicksburg;
40 his sons, Hunter Fordice and Dan Fordice of Vicksburg; and Dr. Jim
41 Fordice of Nashville, Tennessee; 12 grandchildren; and his beloved
42 dog, Lance; and

43 WHEREAS, we mourn with the Fordice family for the loss of a
44 loved one, and we mourn with Mississippi for the loss of a leader:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
46 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
47 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of former Mississippi
48 Governor Kirk Fordice and express to his surviving family the
49 sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
51 the surviving family of Governor Fordice and be made available to
52 the Capitol Press Corps.