

By: Senator(s) Jackson (15th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 549

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. LEONARD BRANDON FOR
2 BEING NAMED "FAMILY PHYSICIAN FOR 2004" BY THE MISSISSIPPI ACADEMY
3 OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON THE 50TH
4 ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF HIS PRACTICE IN STARKVILLE,
5 MISSISSIPPI.

6 WHEREAS, about the only thing better than being named the
7 "Mississippi Family Physician for the Year" is the gratitude
8 Dr. Leonard Brandon feels for being able to do what he loves best
9 every day of his life for the last half century; and

10 WHEREAS, at the age of 77, the genial and fatherly family
11 physician observes the 50th Anniversary of the opening of his
12 medical practice in Starkville. This year he received the honor
13 of being selected by his peers in the Mississippi Academy of
14 Family Physicians as the "Family Physician for 2004." It is the
15 highest honor the academy bestows on an individual member; and

16 WHEREAS, Okibbeha County Hospital honored Dr. Brandon with a
17 reception in celebration of the accomplishments and dedicated
18 service of the local physician; and

19 WHEREAS, setting broken bones, sewing up cuts, delivering
20 babies and dispensing medications for five decades is only a small
21 part of Dr. Brandon's commitment to the medical needs of the
22 community. He insists on taking time to listen to what patients
23 have on their minds, believing the personal touch is an important
24 part of the healing process; and

25 WHEREAS, as a young graduate of the College of Physicians and
26 Surgeons at Columbia University in New York City, he came to
27 Starkville in the early 1950s looking for a location in which to
28 hang his shingle. He met and married Rachel, a young nursing

29 student, in New York City and they promptly headed south. Young
30 Brandon had been the recipient of a scholarship from the State of
31 Mississippi and was obligated to return the favor by practicing
32 medicine in a community with a population of less than 5,000. He
33 selected Starkville, which counted 4,900 people during the 1950
34 census; and

35 WHEREAS, Dr. Brandon delivered between 50 and 90 babies a
36 year during this time. He observed that there was a small army of
37 children born in the 1950s and 1960s with the name Brandon; and

38 WHEREAS, Brandon began his career as a General Practitioner
39 and later shifted to family medicine, a growing specialty in a
40 field becoming increasingly more specialized. In the late 1960s,
41 the American Medical Association set in motion events that would
42 create the American Board of Family Practice and set the standards
43 for the new specialty. Today, family medicine is the largest
44 single specialty in Mississippi with some 800 practitioners; and

45 WHEREAS, it is the peculiar privilege of family doctors to
46 continue to practice medicine as an art, more than a science, by
47 relating to people on a personal basis. Dr. Brandon has that
48 indefinable quality called "bedside manner"; and

49 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Academy of Family Medicine was
50 overwhelmed with nominations for Dr. Brandon for its award. The
51 doctor is still going strong and waves aside any talk of
52 retirement; and

53 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the career
54 and the high esteem with which this Mississippi gentleman is held
55 by his peers and his patients:

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 Dr. Leonard Brandon upon being named "Family
59 Physician for 2004" by the Mississippi Academy of Family
60 Physicians and congratulate him on the 50th Anniversary of the
61 opening of his family practice in Starkville, Mississippi, where

62 he is held in the highest regard for his dedicated service to the
63 community.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
65 Dr. Brandon and his family and be made available to the Capitol
66 Press Corps.