

By: Senator(s) Little

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 596

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER AND LEGACY OF
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF CHARLES W. (CHARLIE) CAPPS, JR., AND WISHING HIM
3 WELL UPON HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, Charles W. (Charlie) Capps, Jr., of the Mississippi
5 House of Representatives, known affectionately as "Mr. Chairman"
6 in the halls of the New Capitol, is completing thirty-three years
7 of consecutive service as a member of the House from District 28,
8 which includes Bolivar, Sunflower and Washington Counties; and

9 WHEREAS, born on January 1, 1925, in Cleveland, Mississippi,
10 Representative Capps, a World War II veteran having served in the
11 Pacific Theater, joined the United States Army in June 1943 as a
12 Private and was discharged as a First Lieutenant in September
13 1946; and

14 WHEREAS, Representative Capps attended Culver Military
15 Academy in Indiana, Davidson College in North Carolina and earned
16 an undergraduate degree in business from the University of
17 Mississippi in 1967 before beginning his career as a public
18 servant; and

19 WHEREAS, after serving as Sheriff of Bolivar County, he began
20 his service as a legislator when elected to the membership of the
21 Mississippi House of Representatives in 1971; and

22 WHEREAS, the talents and ability of Charlie Capps were
23 recognized by the legislative leadership as evidenced by his
24 rising from freshman lawmaker to serve as Chairman of the House
25 Constitution Committee, then to his 1988 appointment as Chairman
26 of the House Appropriations Committee, and his recent 2004
27 reappointment as Chairman of Constitution, also serving on the

28 Agriculture, Enrolled Bills, Military Affairs and Tourism
29 Committees; and

30 WHEREAS, Chairman Capps has been especially active in
31 promoting education at all levels and in industrial development at
32 both state and local levels, having participated in
33 investment-seeking trade missions to Japan and other far eastern
34 countries; and

35 WHEREAS, known by his colleagues as an able and dedicated
36 legislator who has effectively represented the citizens of his
37 district and state, Chairman Capps was honored by Delta State
38 University with the dedication of the Charles W. Capps, Jr.,
39 Archives and Museum in Cleveland; Charles W. Capps, Jr.,
40 Technology Center at Mississippi Delta Community College; Lake
41 Charlie Capps; Representative Charles W. Capps, Jr., National
42 Guard Armory located on Charlie Capps Road in Cleveland; Charles
43 W. Capps, Jr., Crisis Intervention Center in Cleveland; and
44 Charles W. Capps, Jr., Entrepreneurial Center in Stoneville; and

45 WHEREAS, Chairman Capps' love and deeply felt respect for the
46 Legislature as an institution has led him to fight to preserve and
47 nurture its integrity, becoming a guardian of this democratic
48 institution during a time in Mississippi's history when the
49 diversity of the House membership expanded to include meaningful
50 participation by women, African Americans and Republicans, as well
51 as the majority group of Democrats; and

52 WHEREAS, Chairman Capps' leadership abilities have been
53 recognized nationally, as evidenced by his serving as Chairman of
54 the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) of the Council of State
55 Governments, as Vice Chairman of the Legislative Advisory Council
56 of the Southern Regional Education Board, as a member of the SLC
57 Executive Committee and by his selection by the American
58 Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) as the 1987 American Free
59 Enterprise Representative of the Year for Mississippi; and

60 WHEREAS, in addition to serving in the Mississippi House of
61 Representatives, Chairman Capps is president of Capps
62 Insurance-Real Estate and Capps Farms, Inc., a successful farmer
63 and a director of the Sunburst Banking System; and

64 WHEREAS, Chairman Capps is known as a "Gentleman Statesman"
65 possessing a congenial nature, the ability to listen effectively
66 and a good sense of humor -- qualities which have enabled him to
67 resolve volatile and controversial situations; and

68 WHEREAS, in addition to his career as a successful
69 businessman and statesman, Chairman Capps has been a faithful
70 member of the Methodist Church, as well as a devoted husband to
71 the late Mrs. Allen Hobbs Capps, and father of three children,
72 Alinda Sledge, Margaret Allen and Charlie Capps III, and eight
73 grandchildren, who have supported him in all of his endeavors; and

74 WHEREAS, Chairman Capps has indicated that he will retire on
75 June 30th of this year and it is with great pride that we
76 recognize the career of this dedicated public servant, whose
77 legacy lives on in the respect of the members of the Mississippi
78 House and Senate:

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
80 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
81 we do hereby commend our friend and colleague, "Mr. Chairman,"
82 Charles W. (Charlie) Capps, Jr., for all that he has meant to the
83 Mississippi State Legislature and for his unmatched contributions
84 to the people of the State of Mississippi, and we want him to know
85 that his presence and his leadership will be very much missed by
86 this legislative body.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
88 Chairman Capps and his family, and be made available to the
89 members of the Capitol Press Corps.