

By: Senator(s) Gordon, King, Morgan, Hewes,
Thames, Dearing, Robertson, Huggins, Little,
Dawkins, Walley, Williamson, Harvey, Ross,
Pickering, Burton, Carmichael, Nunnelee,
Hyde-Smith, Chaney, Albritton, Lee (35th),
Moffatt, Flowers, White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 601

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DEDICATED PUBLIC
2 SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF DR. SHELBY F. THAMES, PRESIDENT OF THE
3 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Thames is the eighth President of the University
5 of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. He took
6 office on May 1, 2002, continuing an illustrious career of 40
7 years at Southern Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, his previous administrative positions at Southern
9 Mississippi were Chair of the Department of Polymer Science, Dean
10 of the College of Science and Technology, Vice President for
11 Administration and Regional Campuses, and Executive Vice
12 President. In 1970, he was the founder of the Department of
13 Polymer Science, and in 1973, co-founder of the Waterborne and
14 High-Solids Coatings Symposium, an event that has expanded to the
15 annual International Waterborne, High-Solids, and Powder Coatings
16 Symposium in which he continues as its co-director. He sought and
17 gained approval for the enhancement of the College of Science to
18 the College of Science and Technology by creating several new
19 technology programs; and

20 WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the conception and
21 implementation of the "2+2 Degree Program" between the Mississippi
22 Gulf Coast Community College and USM Gulf Coast, which provided a
23 bachelor's degree program course work on the Mississippi Gulf
24 Coast in over 26 subject areas. Another of his many
25 accomplishments involves three entities created to improve
26 statewide economics: Mississippi Polymer Institute; International
27 Coatings and Formulations Institute; and Southern Diversified

28 Products, LLC (a Mississippi University Research Authority
29 company); and

30 WHEREAS, among his numerous honors and awards are the
31 designation as Distinguished University Research Professor of the
32 Department of Polymer Science, recipient of the first
33 Distinguished Professorship by the Southern Society of Coatings
34 Technology, the 1966 USM Alumni Association Continuous Service
35 Award, the 1998 NUC Wheeler McMillan Award for his work with
36 agricultural products, the 1999 AAIC Anson Ellis Thompson Career
37 Achievement Award for his career in promoting the use of
38 agricultural-based materials as industrial raw materials, and
39 inductee in 1998 to the USM's Alumni Hall of Fame. In 1998, USM's
40 \$29 Million Polymer Science Research Center was named in honor of
41 Dr. Thames and is now known as the Shelby Freland Thames Polymer
42 Science Research Center. In 2002, President Thames was recognized
43 by *Modern Paint & Coatings* magazine as its R&D Person of the Year.
44 Recently, President Thames was selected as one of the top ten
45 community leaders in South Mississippi by *The Sun Herald* and *The*
46 *Journal of South Mississippi Business* and received the Outstanding
47 College President Award from the All-American Football Foundation,
48 Inc.; and

49 WHEREAS, at the time of his selection as President of the
50 University of Southern Mississippi, Dr. Thames had a research team
51 of 50 people and supervised five graduate students. Most
52 recently, this team is known for the commercialization of a
53 zero-volatile organic content (VOC) paint that is completely
54 environmentally safe, emitting no odor or harmful properties into
55 the environment. The paint called "American Pride" was used to
56 paint a section of the offices at The Pentagon in 2003; and

57 WHEREAS, he currently serves on the Board of Directors for
58 Conference USA and the Mississippi Technology Alliance, and the
59 Executive Board of the Pine Burr Area Council, Boy Scouts of
60 America; and

61 WHEREAS, Dr. Thames earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees from The
62 University of Southern Mississippi in chemistry and organic
63 chemistry and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Tennessee in
64 organic chemistry; and

65 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
66 achievements of the University of Southern Mississippi under the
67 leadership of Dr. Thames, whose dedication to excellence in higher
68 education and research in our state is a matter of record:

69 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
70 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
71 we do hereby commend the public service of Dr. Shelby F. Thames,
72 President of the University of Southern Mississippi, recognizing
73 his contributions to research and technology and dedication to
74 excellence in higher education in our state, and extending to him
75 the best wishes of the Legislature on his future endeavors.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
77 Dr. Thames, forwarded to the Board of Trustees of State
78 Institutions of Higher Learning and be made available to the
79 Capitol Press Corps.