

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, Jackson (15th),  
Mettetal, Posey

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.