

By: Senator(s) Chaney, Michel, Kirby, Mettetal, Gordon, Burton, Wilemon, Frazier, King, Pickering To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 511

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS OF
2 HARRY R. GILLESPIE OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, AND CONGRATULATING
3 HIM ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.

4 WHEREAS, Harry R. Gillespie of Vicksburg, Mississippi, was
5 born on June 27, 1905, in Palestine, Texas, and will celebrate his
6 100th birthday on June 27, 2005; and

7 WHEREAS, Harry is a Mississippian by "choice" not by
8 "chance"; he moved to Vicksburg in 1954 and become Manager of
9 Valley Mills, and has been a Mississippian ever since; and

10 WHEREAS, Harry graduated from Palestine High School; became a
11 dairy farmer; he was married at 19 years of age to Madge Hanson;
12 their marriage lasted 67 years until the time of Madge's death.
13 Harry and Madge had three children: Hal Gillespie and Susan
14 DeBard Withey, both of whom are now deceased, and John Gillespie,
15 who presently lives in McAllen Texas; they have eight
16 grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren; and

17 WHEREAS, after moving to Vicksburg, he became active in the
18 Vicksburg Little Theater and played the role of father in "Gold in
19 the Hills," performing for many years on the Sprague. He served
20 as President of the Little Theater and was Manager of Cedar Grove
21 for almost five years, when the Little Theater operated Cedar
22 Grove; and

23 WHEREAS, Harry became a member of the Rotary Club
24 International in Palestine, Texas, in the 1920's, and a member of
25 Vicksburg Rotary in 1954. Harry is past President of Vicksburg
26 Rotary, and served as Chairman of Rotary Information for many
27 years, until 1996. Harry trained new members of Vicksburg Rotary

28 for many years, indoctrinating them in the mission and purpose of
29 Rotary at special sessions held just for those members. Harry's
30 contributions and dedication to Rotary reflect his great love for
31 the organization and its ideals. Harry is, indeed, "Mr. Rotary"
32 to all who know and love him; and

33 WHEREAS, he married his present wife, Edna Earle Whitaker, on
34 Valentines Day in 1993; and

35 WHEREAS, Harry has witnessed a great cross-section of
36 American history; Harry's first car was a 1913 Model T Ford; he
37 remembers seeing Buffalo Bill perform in the Wild Bill Cody Show,
38 fringed leather jacket and all, and remembers their first electric
39 bulb and first indoor plumbing; and

40 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
41 landmark in the life of an individual whose civic contributions
42 have brought honor to his community and to his adopted state:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
45 we do hereby commend the civic contributions of Mr. Harry R.
46 Gillespie of Vicksburg, Mississippi, congratulate him on the
47 occasion of his 100th birthday and extend to him and his family
48 the best wishes of the Legislature.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
50 Harry R. Gillespie and his family and be made available to the
51 Capitol Press Corps.