

By: Senator(s) Simmons, Walls,
Horhn, Jackson (11th), Butler,
Thomas, Jordan, Frazier, Turner,
Williamson, Harden

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 516

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING TO THE VICTIMS OF
2 LYNCHING IN MISSISSIPPI AND THE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE VICTIMS.

3 WHEREAS, the crime of lynching succeeded slavery as the
4 ultimate expression of racism in the United States and in the
5 State of Mississippi following Reconstruction; and

6 WHEREAS, lynching was a widely acknowledged practice in the
7 United States and in the State of Mississippi until the middle of
8 the 20th Century; and

9 WHEREAS, lynching was a crime that occurred throughout the
10 United States, with documented incidents in all but four states;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, at least 4,742 people, predominantly
13 African-Americans, were reported lynched in the United States
14 between 1882 and 1968; and

15 WHEREAS, ninety-nine percent of all perpetrators of lynching
16 escaped from punishment by state or local officials; and

17 WHEREAS, lynching prompted African-Americans to form the
18 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
19 and prompted members of B'nai B'rith to found the Anti-Defamation
20 League; and

21 WHEREAS, nearly 200 anti-lynching bills were introduced in
22 Congress during the first half of the 20th Century; and

23 WHEREAS, protection against lynching was the minimum and most
24 basic of federal responsibilities, and the U.S. Senate considered
25 but failed to enact anti-lynching legislation despite repeated
26 requests by civil rights groups, Presidents and the House of
27 Representatives to do so; and

28 WHEREAS, only by coming to terms with history can the United
29 States effectively champion human rights abroad; and

30 WHEREAS, an apology offered in the spirit of true repentance
31 moves the United States and the State of Mississippi toward
32 reconciliation and may become central to a new understanding, on
33 which improved racial relations can be forged:

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
35 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
36 the State of Mississippi (a) apologizes to the victims of lynching
37 in the State of Mississippi; (b) expresses the deepest sympathies
38 and most solemn regrets of the Legislature to the descendants of
39 victims of lynching, the ancestors of whom were deprived of life,
40 human dignity, and the constitutional protections accorded all
41 citizens of the United States; and (c) remembers the history of
42 lynching, to ensure that these tragedies will be neither forgotten
43 nor repeated.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded by
45 the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House to the
46 Governor of the State of Mississippi, to the Secretary of State
47 for publication, be forwarded to members of the Mississippi
48 congressional delegation and be made available to members of the
49 Capitol Press Corps.