

By: Senator(s) Hyde-Smith, Lee (35th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 549

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC
2 SERVICE OF FORMER STATE SENATOR JACK ALFRED PACE OF MAGEE,
3 MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, former State Senator Jack Alfred Pace of Magee,
5 Mississippi, founder of Pace Oil Company, died on Monday, January
6 9, 2006; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Pace was born March 9, 1917, in Conehatta,
8 Mississippi, and grew up in Philadelphia, Mississippi. After
9 graduating from Philadelphia High School, he attended East Central
10 Community College on an athletic scholarship, later continuing his
11 education at Southern Mississippi Veterans Administration School;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, to begin his life as a businessman, Pace had bought
14 a Sinclair service station in Hattiesburg, but World War II put
15 his career on hold. He joined the U.S. Army on March 3, 1942, and
16 served in the European Theater until January 21, 1946. He rose to
17 the rank of Sergeant and saw duty in the Battle of the Bulge.

18 World War II was the defining period of Jack's life, said
19 son-in-law Al Gordy of Magee. It determined who he became; and

20 WHEREAS, after returning to Hattiesburg, Pace became a
21 wholesale oil jobber for Sinclair Oil with Magee as his territory
22 and started night classes at Mississippi Southern. He also
23 married Mary Louise Barksdale, who would be his wife for 54 years,
24 until her death in 2000. In 1946, he also founded Pace Oil
25 Company, a Magee business which grew from two to 60 employees. In
26 1996, the company celebrated 50 years of a successful business,
27 though Pace himself had retired in 1982, leaving the family

28 business to the management of his son, Alfred Pace, and daughter,
29 Jacqueline Gordy; and

30 WHEREAS, along the way, Pace was elected to two terms in the
31 Mississippi State Senate, 1960-1964 and 1968-1972. He served on
32 various committees, including Finance and Oil and Gas. He was
33 actively involved in many state and local organizations. He was a
34 Mason, a Shriner, State Commander of the American Legion,
35 President of Mississippi Oil Jobbers for two years and a member of
36 the VFW, Lions Club, Mississippi Economic Council, Southeast
37 Division of the American Red Cross and the Magee Touchdown Club;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, he organized the Magee Civic Club and was President
40 of the Magee Chamber of Commerce for two years. He was named
41 Magee's Outstanding Citizen by the Chamber in 1989 and was chosen
42 for the Magee Hall of Fame in 2001. In 2003, he received a
43 commendation for his public service and philanthropy from the
44 Mississippi House of Representatives; and

45 WHEREAS, Jack Pace was a lifelong member of the First United
46 Methodist Church, where he served on every committee in the
47 church. He taught the Men's Bible Class for 57 years; and

48 WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Louise
49 Pace. He is survived by his son, Alfred Pace and wife Kim of
50 Magee; daughter, Jacqueline Pace Gordy and husband Al Gordy of
51 Magee and grandchildren, Kyle Gordy, Kami Wert, Hugh Pace and
52 Holly Pace; great-grandchildren, Mary Morgan Wert and Jack Thomas
53 Gordy; and one brother, Joe Pace of Magee; and

54 WHEREAS, it is with great sadness that we note the passing of
55 this former member of the Legislature, whose considerable civic
56 and charitable contributions are a matter of record to his
57 community and to his state:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
59 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
60 we do hereby commend the life and public service of former State

61 Senator Jack Alfred Pace of Magee, Mississippi, and express to his
62 surviving family the sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
64 Senator Pace's surviving family and be made available to the
65 Capitol Press Corps.