

By: Senator(s) Michel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 578

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING ANTON
2 REEL, WORLD CHAMPION WEIGHT LIFTER WHO PIONEERED ATHLETIC WEIGHT
3 LIFTING PROGRAMS IN BROOKHAVEN, MISSISSIPPI, UPON HIS INDUCTION
4 INTO THE MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2006.

5 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame has unveiled its
6 Class of 2006 which features Anton Reel, world champion weight
7 lifter, who pioneered athletic weight lifting programs in
8 Brookhaven, Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, Anton Reel is the first person ever selected to the
10 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame for the sport of weight lifting;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, a native of Nuremberg, Germany, Anton was raised in
13 New York City, New York. Anton was a prep track star at James
14 Monroe High School in the Bronx and was a multi-event performer at
15 Perkinston Junior College (now known as Gulf Coast Community
16 College); and

17 WHEREAS, he began weight lifting while still serving in the
18 U.S. Navy and attending dental school in New Orleans, Louisiana,
19 in 1943. He won the 1944 Southern AAU Novice Championship in the
20 Heavyweight Division and later won the title of "Mr. New Orleans"
21 in the Louisiana State Body Building Contest. Wartime
22 restrictions prevented him from competing for the Mr. America
23 competition; and

24 WHEREAS, Anton created the first organized weight lifting and
25 training program in Mississippi for high school athletes while
26 operating a successful dental practice in Brookhaven, Mississippi;
27 and

28 WHEREAS, he helped train Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame
29 members Lance Alworth, Harol Lofton and Ralph "Catfish" Smith.
30 His training of players who contributed to LSU's National
31 Championship Team prompted Head Coach Paul Dietzel to make him a
32 special honorary Coach of the LSU Tigers in 1958. Players trained
33 by Reel refer to themselves as "Doc's Boys"; and

34 WHEREAS, after retirement from his dentistry practice, he
35 began training for weight lifting competitions in Jacksonville,
36 Florida. From 1997 to 2004, Dr. Reel won eight consecutive
37 National Weight Lifting Championships in three different weight
38 categories at venues across the United States; and

39 WHEREAS, Anton captured his national titles from the USAPL at
40 the ages of 77 through 85 and set three national records (which
41 are still unbroken) at the ages of 77, 82 and 83; and

42 WHEREAS, inducted as an honorary member of the National
43 Football Foundation and Hall of Fame in 1970, he received the
44 All-American Football Foundation Outstanding American Award in
45 2000; and

46 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
47 outstanding athlete and trainer who is an inspiration to all
48 athletes and who has brought honor to his community, his college
49 and to the State of Mississippi:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
52 we do hereby commend and congratulate Anton Reel, world champion
53 weight lifter, who pioneered athletic weight lifting programs for
54 university and professional sports teams in Brookhaven,
55 Mississippi, upon his induction into the Mississippi Sports Hall
56 of Fame Class of 2006, and wish him and his family continued
57 success in all their future endeavors.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
59 Anton Reel at induction ceremonies and be made available to the
60 Capitol Press Corps.