

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Posey, Gordon,  
Chaney, Frazier, Jackson (11th), Jackson  
(32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 610

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF PIONEER OIL  
2 AND GAS BUSINESSMAN JOHN S. CALLON OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI, AND  
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, John S. Callon, a pioneer in Mississippi's oil and  
5 natural gas exploration and cofounder of Callon Petroleum in  
6 Natchez, Mississippi, passed away on Saturday, March 11, 2006; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Callon began his career in 1950, building Callon  
8 Petroleum into a publicly traded New York Stock Exchange company  
9 with a market capitalization of \$350 Million; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Callon, with his brother Sim Callon, drilled  
11 thousands of wells throughout the United States during their  
12 decades in business together, from California to Florida and from  
13 Texas to Michigan; and

14 WHEREAS, "he was a remarkable person who will be missed by  
15 all of us," stated Fred Callon, the company Chairman, Chief  
16 Executive Officer and nephew of John Callon. "He led our company  
17 for over half a century, through both challenging and triumphant  
18 times. We will always be indebted to him for the vision and  
19 leadership he provided"; and

20 WHEREAS, John Callon retired as Chief Executive Officer of  
21 the company in 1997 and as Chairman of the Board in 2004. During  
22 his many years in the business, he saw oil prices fall to \$2.50 a  
23 barrel and soar to the recent highs above \$60.00 a barrel; and

24 WHEREAS, Natchez Attorney and former State Representative  
25 Walter Brown said Callon Petroleum might easily have moved to a  
26 larger city, such as Houston, Texas, "but John Callon loved

27 Natchez and Mississippi. He had an intense pride in it," Brown  
28 said; and

29 WHEREAS, John Callon was well-known in the community not only  
30 as a business leader but also as a participant in civic affairs  
31 and for the role, along with his wife, of preserving the Natchez  
32 Antebellum House Melrose; and

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Callon was a 1937 graduate of Natchez High  
34 School. He enlisted in the Navy at the outbreak of World War II  
35 and saw action in both the European and Pacific Theaters; and

36 WHEREAS, survivors include: wife, Betty R. Callon of  
37 Natchez; two daughters: Carol A. Callon (Jim Iannarone) of Katy,  
38 Texas, and Anna C. Callon (John Ayers) of Washington, D.C.; two  
39 sons: D. Cane Callon (Susan W.) of Natchez, and John Chase Callon  
40 (Mitzi J.) of Natchez; one brother: Sim C. Callon (Vera D.) of  
41 Natchez; two nephews: Sim C. Callon, Jr., of Natchez, and Fred L.  
42 Callon (Karen G.) of Natchez; ten grandchildren: Shane McArthur,  
43 Callon Harrison, Ben Fuqua, Daniel Fuqua, John Callon II, Ben  
44 Callon, William Callon, Kristy Callon, Coleman Ayers and David  
45 Ayers; and three great-grandchildren: Brennen McArthur, Dalton  
46 McArthur and Mary Cameron McArthur; and

47 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this  
48 icon in the oil and gas exploration industry whose civic and  
49 humanitarian contributions to his community and state are a matter  
50 of record:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
52 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
53 we do hereby commend the life of pioneer oil and gas businessman  
54 John S. Callon of Natchez, Mississippi, and express the sympathy  
55 of the Legislature on his passing.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
57 the surviving family of Mr. Callon and be made available to *The*  
58 *Natchez Democrat* and to members of the Capitol Press Corps.