

By: Senator(s) Gordon,  
Little, Gollott, Jordan,  
Chaney, Simmons, Horhn,  
Hyde-Smith, Frazier, Kirby,  
King, Browning, Moffatt,  
Thames, Robertson,  
Pickering, Michel, Mettetal,  
Doxey, Dearing, Posey,  
Morgan, Flowers, Thomas,  
Jackson (11th), Turner,  
Carmichael, Tollison,  
Nunnelee, Harden, Wilemon,  
White, Williamson, Hewes,  
Brown, Burton, Davis

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 506

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC  
2 SERVICE OF SENATOR ROBERT G. "BUNKY" HUGGINS, AND EXPRESSING THE  
3 SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the State of Mississippi lost a  
5 wonderful friend, colleague, gentleman and enlightened lawmaker  
6 with the death of State Senator Robert G. "Bunky" Huggins on  
7 Wednesday, May 10, 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Huggins began his public service when he was  
9 elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1972. He  
10 was re-elected to the House of Representative twice and then  
11 elected to the Mississippi State Senate in 1984, where he served  
12 with honor and distinction until his passing. An influential  
13 member of many committees throughout his legislative career, he  
14 was the current Chairman of the Senate Corrections Committee and  
15 the Chairman of the Legislative Performance, Evaluation and  
16 Expenditure Review (PEER) Committee. His previous chairmanships  
17 included the Senate Corrections, Appropriations and Public Health  
18 and Welfare Committees, and he was one of the most respected and  
19 beloved members of the Legislature; and

20 WHEREAS, Senator Huggins leaves a legacy as a lawmaker who  
21 led the fight to decentralize the Mississippi prison system and  
22 break the state's "Parchman Farm" image as a backward state in  
23 corrections policy. He is remembered by Senate colleagues as a  
24 tough, fair and enlightened lawmaker who fought tooth-and-nail to  
25 get the Delta's fair share, but with a statewide perspective which

26 made him a perfect fit for his district and for the Senate as a  
27 whole; and

28 WHEREAS, as a perennial Senate leader, Senator Huggins  
29 exerted a powerful influence not only over the state prison system  
30 for which he will be first remembered, but over sweeping public  
31 health and welfare improvements that were of great value to the  
32 impoverished Delta region he loved; and

33 WHEREAS, born in rural Carroll County in 1936, Senator  
34 Huggins lived most of his life in Greenwood, Mississippi. A  
35 graduate of Greenwood High School, he attended college at the  
36 University of Southern Mississippi and Mississippi College, and  
37 was a law student at the Jackson School of Law. He married the  
38 former Gerry Robinette in 1959. He was President of Metalcraft,  
39 Inc., in Greenwood, Mississippi, and raised cattle in Carroll  
40 County on the farm where he was born. His memberships included  
41 the Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Cattlemen's Association and  
42 Kappa Sigma Fraternity. He was an avid sportsman and was fond of  
43 his hunting dogs; and

44 WHEREAS, Bunky was a source of tireless energy, often taking  
45 on many difficult concerns and situations. He dismissed no issue  
46 in which he truly believed. His thoughts were always channeled  
47 toward what was best for our state; and

48 WHEREAS, Bunky spent his life in service to his neighbors.  
49 He was a member of St. John's United Methodist Church where he  
50 served as chairman of several committees; and

51 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Gerry, and daughter,  
52 Deleslyn Robertson, and her children, Derrick and Rachel  
53 Robertson, all of Greenwood, Mississippi; daughter, Stephanie  
54 Billingsley, and her husband, Bill and her children, Avery and  
55 Michael Tucker, all of Madison, Mississippi; sisters, Elizabeth  
56 Mitchell of Greenwood, Mississippi, and Patricia Tolar of Kenner,  
57 Louisiana; nieces, Gwyn Helton of Kenner, Louisiana, and Elizabeth  
58 Ann Rice and Bonnie Kay McCool, both of Greenwood, Mississippi;

59 nephew, Bobby French of Spring, Texas, and numerous cousins,  
60 friends and relatives; and

61 WHEREAS, "Bunky Huggins' long service is marked by his  
62 commitment to success and recognized leadership," Governor Barbour  
63 said. "He excelled in a variety of major responsibilities and  
64 served the Senate, his constituents and the state exceptionally  
65 well"; and

66 WHEREAS, Senator Huggins' public service was exemplified by  
67 sound judgment and fairness, and he set the highest standard in  
68 all of his many roles, as a father, husband, grandfather,  
69 businessman, citizen statesman and leader in the Mississippi Delta  
70 and in the Mississippi Senate and as a true friend:

71 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
72 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
73 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of public service of  
74 Senator Robert G. "Bunky" Huggins of Greenwood, Mississippi, and  
75 express to his family the sympathy of the Legislature on his  
76 passing and our thanks for sharing Bunky with us and with the  
77 State of Mississippi.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
79 the surviving family of Senator Bunky Huggins and be made  
80 available to the Capitol Press Corps.