

By: Senator(s) Burton

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 519

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND COMMUNITY  
2 SERVICE OF BRIAN WILLIAMS OF LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI, WELL-KNOWN  
3 BANKER FOR THE NASHVILLE MUSIC INDUSTRY.

4 WHEREAS, Brian Williams, who built SunTrust Bank's Music  
5 Industry Division into a national powerhouse, died on Saturday,  
6 July 8, 2006; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1988, Williams started the bank's music industry  
8 division and in 1990, it moved to Music Row in Nashville,  
9 Tennessee, becoming the first full service branch on the Row.  
10 Under his watch, the operation expanded beyond lending, deposit  
11 and investment services to Nashville's Music Industry to offices  
12 in Atlanta and Miami targeting the hip-hop and Latin music genres.  
13 More recently, the operation was renamed the sports and  
14 entertainment division, reflecting ties with NASCAR and a new  
15 effort to serve professional athletes; and

16 WHEREAS, in SunTrust's Music Row Office are gold and platinum  
17 records presented to the bank and Williams by a roster of clients  
18 that have included artists such as Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson,  
19 Faith Hill, Martina McBride, and Reba McEntire; and

20 WHEREAS, Brian Williams had a reputation for understanding  
21 the artists, producers, songwriters and the language of the music  
22 business, all of which tends to confound the rest of Nashville's  
23 business community. His interest in the music business didn't  
24 start with his career in banking. Williams, a native of Laurel,  
25 Mississippi, was a 1983 graduate of the University of Mississippi.  
26 While in college, he teamed up in a band with Ole Miss football

27 player Bryan Kennedy, who went on to become a successful Nashville  
28 songwriter; and

29 WHEREAS, for songwriters, Williams meant help in lean times  
30 before they started collecting royalties. A songwriter may have a  
31 cut recorded for an album, but royalties don't roll in for more  
32 than a year. Meanwhile, the writer had to live and eat, a  
33 particular challenge for those landing their first cuts; and

34 WHEREAS, thanks to Brian Williams, whose official title was  
35 Senior Vice President, Group Manager of SunTrust Bank's Sport and  
36 Entertainment Marketing-Sun Trust (formerly Third National) is the  
37 official bank of NASCAR and has motor sports offices in Dayton  
38 Beach, Florida, Charlotte, North Carolina, and an office  
39 specializing in pro athletes in Orlando, Florida. He was a rising  
40 superstar in that world, and was known as "Banker of the Stars";  
41 and

42 WHEREAS, in addition to his considerable business talents,  
43 Brian Williams was a dedicated member of his community and his  
44 civic and charitable contributions are a matter of record; and

45 WHEREAS, Williams and his wife, Marion, a former longtime  
46 publicist for RCA Records, have two children; and

47 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this  
48 Mississippian who was an integral part of his community:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
50 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
51 we do hereby commend the life and community service of Brian  
52 Williams of Laurel, Mississippi, respected Banker for the  
53 Nashville Music Industry, and extend to his surviving family the  
54 sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to  
56 the surviving family of Brian Williams and be made available to  
57 the Capitol Press Corps.