

By: Senator(s) Mettetal

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 532

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ROBERTS FAMILY FOR
2 PRODUCING THREE GENERATIONS OF DEDICATED TEACHERS IN THE
3 CLASSROOMS OF SOUTH PANOLA HIGH SCHOOL.

4 WHEREAS, the Roberts family has produced three generations of
5 South Panola High School teachers: D.R. Roberts, Brent Roberts
6 and P.R. Roberts; and

7 WHEREAS, with overlapping tenures and a combined 61 years in
8 the classroom, the grandfather, D.R. Roberts (Biology); father,
9 P.R. Roberts (Chemistry); and son, Brent (English), have taught
10 more than 6,000 South Panola students; and

11 WHEREAS, for three generations of the Roberts' family, the
12 hallways of South Panola High School have been a second home. At
13 every football game, junior-senior banquets and graduation in the
14 43-year history of South Panola High School, there has been a Mr.
15 Roberts present; and

16 WHEREAS, the family also boasts what is probably the most
17 complete set of local high school yearbooks: 53 consecutive
18 editions, starting with Batesville High School's 1953 issue; and

19 WHEREAS, D.R. Roberts, 80, retired in 1983 after a 30-year
20 career that began in 1953 when he came to the then-Batesville High
21 School. Armed with a B.S. Degree from Delta State, D.R. was the
22 only Biology teacher at Batesville High. He is still everybody's
23 Biology teacher. Former students and those in the community who
24 know of his expertise still contact him. D.R. left a legacy of
25 preserved specimens at South Panola High School when he retired.
26 Biology students today are still learning from the frogs, snakes
27 and other creatures he caught and preserved; and

28 WHEREAS, P.R. Roberts, 51, holds B.A. and M.A. Degrees in
29 Education from the University of Mississippi. Last year he was
30 named South Panola's Star Teacher, chosen by Star Student Thomas
31 Wilkie. He followed in the footsteps of his father, D.R., who was
32 also a Star Teacher. Among P.R.'s most poignant memories from
33 teaching are occasions when there were deaths in the South Panola
34 family, students or teachers, during the school year. P.R. is now
35 teaching sons and daughters of former students. Among those he
36 has taught are a number of current South Panola High School
37 faculty members, including his son, Brent; and

38 WHEREAS, Brent's early college years were spent preparing for
39 a career in sports Medicine, but he soon acknowledged a personal
40 desire to coach, and the quickest way to that goal was to teach at
41 the high school level. He earned his Bachelor's Degree at Ole
42 Miss, became an English teacher and now coaches the South Panola
43 High School freshmen boys basketball team. Brent said he
44 appreciated having a ready-made mentor when he started his career;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, a close-knit family, the Robertses enjoy spending
47 time with each other in or out of school. They hunt and fish
48 together, build boats as family projects and all attend
49 Batesville's First Baptist Church; and

50 WHEREAS, two of the three Roberts' wives are also teachers.
51 D.R.'s wife, Ann, taught at Batesville Elementary School and
52 P.R.'s wife, Jill, currently teaches First Grade at Batesville
53 Elementary School. Brent's wife, Candace, works at the University
54 of Mississippi; and

55 WHEREAS, seeing the influence of his grandfather and father
56 on their students, D.R. and P.R. count doctors, lawyers and scores
57 of other successful people among their former students, Brent
58 realizes that teaching is about more than English lessons; and

59 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we note the tradition of
60 this family whose contributions to the students of their community

61 constitute a legacy of a strong public school system in the State
62 of Mississippi:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
64 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
65 we do hereby commend the Roberts family of Batesville,
66 Mississippi, for producing three generations of dedicated teachers
67 in the classrooms of South Panola High School, and we extend the
68 best wishes of the Legislature to D.R. Roberts, P.R. Roberts and
69 Brent Roberts and their families in their future endeavors.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
71 the Roberts family and the Superintendent of the South Panola
72 School District and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.