

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott, Albritton,
Burton, Butler, Chaney, Dawkins, Fillingane,
Frazier, Harden, Jackson (11th), Jordan,
King, Moffatt, Morgan, Pickering, Robertson,
Walls

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 582

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PUBLIC
2 SERVICE OF FORMER GULFPORT MAYOR AND RETIRED BRIGADIER GENERAL KEN
3 COMBS, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, retired Brigadier General and former Mayor Kincheon
5 Varner (Ken) Combs, 77, of Gulfport, Mississippi, died Tuesday,
6 February 13, 2007; and

7 WHEREAS, former Gulfport Mayor Combs served as Mayor from
8 1989 to 1993 and from 2001 to 2005. Mayor Brent Warr ordered all
9 flags in the city to be flown at half-staff in his honor; and

10 WHEREAS, he was born April 22, 1929, to Robert and Mary Combs
11 and was the oldest of 7 children. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine
12 Corps at age 17. While enrolled at Jones County Junior College in
13 Ellisville, Mississippi, he joined the Army National Guard and his
14 unit was activated during the Korean Conflict, where he spent 9
15 months in Japan. He later continued his education at Jones County
16 Junior College and Mississippi State University, where he received
17 a degree in Civil Engineering. Mr. Combs also attended the U.S.
18 Army Engineer Officer School, the U.S. Army Engineer Advanced
19 Officer School, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, during the late 1950s and early 1960s, Ken Combs was
22 a Captain in the Army National Guard and was the Engineer Officer
23 for the State of Mississippi, with his office in the State Capitol
24 Building in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1965, he moved to Gulfport
25 where he became the Base Civil Engineer at the Air National Guard
26 Training Site; and

27 WHEREAS, after many years as the Base Civil Engineer and
28 promotions to Major, Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel, Ken Combs was
29 appointed Commander of the Air National Guard Training Site until
30 his retirement in 1989, retiring as Brigadier General, U.S.A.F.
31 Other appointments or positions held during his years in the
32 National Guard were as follows: Vice President of the Air
33 National Guard Association, 1972-1973; Director of the National
34 Guard Association of Mississippi, 1977-1979; and appointed to
35 Executive Council of the National Guard Association of the United
36 States, 1985; and

37 WHEREAS, immediately upon retirement from the Air National
38 Guard in 1989 he was elected to his first term as Mayor of
39 Gulfport in 1989 and served until 1993 and then was reelected to
40 his second consecutive term in 1993 and served until 1997; and

41 WHEREAS, Mayor Combs worked for the Public Service Commission
42 between 1997-2000 with his office being in Biloxi. He was again
43 elected Mayor of Gulfport in 2001; and

44 WHEREAS, to name every accomplishment, service, award, honor
45 or recognition throughout his remarkable lifetime would be
46 impossible. Outstanding appointments or positions held by Mayor
47 Combs and his awards/recognitions include: served on the Boy
48 Scouts Pine Burr Area Council, where he received their highest
49 honor, and the Silver Beaver Award for Distinguished Service to
50 Boyhood, from the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of
51 America, in 1971. He also served on the Girl Scouts Pine Burr
52 Area Council, recipient of the Paul Harris Award by the Gulfport
53 Rotary Club, was the Director of Gulfport Civil Service
54 Commission, past President of the Gulfport School System Board of
55 Education, and past President of the Gulf Coast Crime Commission;
56 and

57 WHEREAS, he was honored by Mayor Bob Short and the City of
58 Gulfport when the Courthouse Road Pier was renamed the Ken Combs
59 Pier; and

60 WHEREAS, since 1966, Mr. Combs was an active member of
61 Trinity United Methodist Church and served on numerous church
62 committees and boards; and

63 WHEREAS, survivors include his wife of 56 years, Nita Combs;
64 three daughters, Cathy Combs Longino, Carol Combs Smith and
65 Frances Combs McGuire, all of Gulfport; two sons, Lieutenant
66 Colonel Robert V. "Bob" (Bobbi Helms) Combs, Ret., Woodbridge,
67 Virginia, and Ken (Edie Waltman) Combs, Jr., Gulfport,
68 Mississippi; 11 grandchildren; two brothers; and numerous nieces
69 and nephews located across the United States; and

70 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
71 military and civic leader who had the support and confidence of
72 the residents of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and a grateful state
73 offers our thanks for his selfless service:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
75 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
76 we do hereby commend the life and public service of former
77 Gulfport Mayor and retired Brigadier General Kincheon V. (Ken)
78 Combs and express to his surviving family the sympathy of the
79 Legislature on his passing.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
81 the surviving family of Mayor Combs and be forwarded to the
82 Gulfport Mayor Brent Warr and Board of Aldermen and be made
83 available to the Capitol Press Corps.