

Regular Session, 2011

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

CONDOLENCES. Expresses sincere and heartfelt condolences upon the death of Mississippi State Senator Carl J. "Jack" Gordon.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To express the sincere and heartfelt condolences of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the
3 passing of a beloved statesman, Senator Carl J. "Jack" Gordon, Jr., of Okolona,
4 Mississippi.

5 WHEREAS, it was with deep regret that the members of the Legislature of Louisiana
6 have learned of the death of Mississippi State Senator, the Honorable Jack Gordon, on
7 May 7, 2011, at the age of sixty-six; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Jack Gordon was a true southern gentleman, a man brimming
9 with self-confidence and charisma, who possessed a keen sense of humor and a profound
10 understanding of the complexities of the legislative process; and

11 WHEREAS, Jack Gordon, through diligence and hard work, led a charmed life, both
12 in public service and private enterprise, experiencing success in nearly every business
13 endeavor that included ownership in Polyfoam Manufacturing, Tupelo Oil, Bessemer
14 Petroleum, and real estate holdings; and

15 WHEREAS, Jack Gordon had served the second longest tenure, thirty-six years, in
16 the history of the Mississippi Legislature, with eight years in the House of Representatives
17 and twenty-eight years of distinguished service to the citizens of the Eighth Senatorial
18 District; having served honorably under the administrations of eight governors; and

1 WHEREAS, Senator Jack Gordon performed his legislative duties with noteworthy
2 aplomb and had served on a majority of Senate committees that included Congressional
3 Redistricting, Fees, Salaries, and Administration; Environmental Protection, Conservation,
4 and Water Resources; Judiciary A, Legislative Budget, Reapportionment, Local and Private,
5 Oil, Gas, and Other Minerals; and also served as chairman of Appropriations, Public
6 Property, Education, Public Employees & Retirement, and Buildings & Grounds
7 committees; and

8 WHEREAS, Senator Jack Gordon provided invaluable leadership in the betterment
9 of education; his influence confectioned the Education Reform Act of 1982 that mandated early
10 learning in public schools and other measures for improved scholastic rankings of state
11 universities and community colleges; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Jack Gordon worked tirelessly on the behalf of the Southern
13 Regional Education Board, an interstate compact for education composed of sixteen member
14 states, whose focus is to improve public schools and higher education; and

15 WHEREAS, since 1977, he had served SREB in all aspects, as a member of its
16 advisory council, executive and finance committees, the special committee for the
17 improvement of high school graduation rates, and lastly, as its treasurer; and

18 WHEREAS, through his extraordinary talents for diplomacy and compromise, he
19 brought to fruition advancements in education that shall continue to have a positive affect
20 on future generations of Mississippi's school children; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Jack Gordon was articulate and knowledgeable in the policies
22 of appropriations and finance and his political philosophy embraced the give and take
23 processes of representative democracy; and

24 WHEREAS, he was born on December 29, 1944, in Tupelo, Mississippi, to parents,
25 Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Gordon, Sr.; and

26 WHEREAS, as an avid fan and graduate of Mississippi State University, he lent his
27 support to athletic programs and academic studies and was honored by his alma mater in
28 March of 2011 with a scholarship that bears his name; and

29 WHEREAS, as a Christian of unfaltering faith, Jack Gordon was a lifelong member
30 of the Okolona First Baptist Church; and

1 WHEREAS, he was married for forty-three years to his wife, Martha Estes Gordon,
2 and their union was blessed with three daughters, Natalie Rutledge, Kim Gordon, and Leigh
3 Carole Mullins, precious grandchildren, fond friends, and extended family; and

4 WHEREAS, known for his gentle and compassionate spirit, Senator Jack Gordon
5 was admired by all and respected for his personable demeanor which was laced with a
6 special kindness; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator Jack Gordon was a generous man who performed his public
8 service duties proudly and he leaves a rich, unique legacy that shall live on in the hearts of
9 all who knew him.

10 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
11 express its sincere and heartfelt condolences on the passing of a great statesman from the
12 Senate of the state of Mississippi, Carl J. "Jack" Gordon, Jr.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to his
14 widow, Mrs. Martha E. Gordon.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Susan P. Montague.

DIGEST

Thompson

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