

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY SENATOR THOMPSON

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

committees; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES