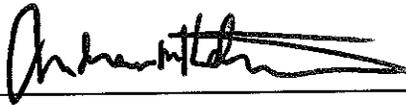


Chapter No. 2013
14/HR12/R1960
CST / glj

**HOUSE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 76**

Originated in House  Clerk

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN FURNISS BONDURANT OF FOREST, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

WHEREAS, on Saturday, December 21, 2013, the City of Forest, Mississippi, and the entire State of Mississippi sadly lost an unassuming yet highly respected son of our state with the passing, after a brief illness of John Furniss Bondurant, a modest man whose life of over 100 years truly personified the values of the Greatest Generation; and

WHEREAS, the second son of "surprise" twins born to Sidney Morgan Bondurant and his wife, Sadie Kendrick Bondurant, on September 15, 1913, John Bondurant, a native of Selma, Alabama, spent his early childhood years in Marion Junction, Alabama, before being sent to live with relatives in Marion, Alabama, when his mother died from influenza; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, where he played on the state championship basketball team and served his senior class as president, John Bondurant worked the night shift in a

factory to put himself through Alabama Polytechnic Institute, which later became Auburn University, and upon completing his bachelor of science degree in business in 1935, he went to work for the Firestone Tire Company before accepting a position with GMAC; and

WHEREAS, around 1940, John Bondurant, a true patriot who considered it his duty to volunteer in service to his country, enlisted in the Vicksburg unit of the Mississippi National Guard as a private but in no time was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant after the Guard was called up for a year of "active duty for training"; and

WHEREAS, shortly before the United States' entry into World War II and his anticipated deployment in 1941, John Bondurant married the love of his life, Miss Iva Dee Wiggins of Philadelphia, Mississippi, whom he had met at the Southern Hotel in Forest, Mississippi, while on a GMAC business trip covering territory in Mississippi assigned to him; and

WHEREAS, with the global war rapidly escalating abroad, it was not long after their marriage before John Bondurant was assigned to the South Pacific, where he served as an infantry officer on several islands until he was seriously injured in battle on the Philippine Island of Mindanao; and

WHEREAS, John Bondurant, decorated with the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Bronze Star "for meritorious service in combat against enemy forces," returned stateside on a hospital

ship a few weeks before the Japanese surrendered in 1945, and after being released from active duty, Mr. Bondurant went to work for the Lee Corporation managing a Chevrolet dealership in Morton, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, John Bondurant and his family moved just down the road to make their home in the City of Forest, where he opened Automotive Wholesale Company, a successful wholesale auto parts business; and

WHEREAS, over the following years, John Bondurant became increasingly involved in his community and in civic affairs, and ultimately, his willingness to serve others and to participate in efforts to better their hometown led to his and Mrs. Bondurant's being named "Citizens of the Year" by the Forest Chamber of Commerce in honor of their many years of dedicated service to the community; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian and longtime active member of Forest United Methodist Church, John Bondurant, fondly known by many of his fellow parishioners who knew and loved him best as "Mr. John," was always available to serve his church family in whatever way he could, including tending to the church's finances as Chairman of the Finance Committee, volunteering in the church office and organizing trips for the church's senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, John Bondurant, so aptly described by syndicated columnist, Sid Salter, as "a true American hero" and "a man of great wisdom and integrity," lived a full life spanning over a

century quietly and humbly serving his fellowman without seeking recognition or gain, while always maintaining an attitude expressed by some of the last words he uttered on his last day of this life, words thanking Jesus for the many blessings in his life; and

WHEREAS, John Furniss Bondurant, whose legacy and memory lives on today in the hearts and memories of his loving family and those who knew him best, is survived and deeply missed by: his wife of over 72 years, Iva Dee Bondurant; his two sons, Dr. Sidney Bondurant and Si Morgan Bondurant; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commemorate outstanding Mississippians such as John Furniss Bondurant, whose century-long life of patriotism, commitment, hard work and faithfulness to God, family, community and country is the epitome of a life well-lived to which all citizens of our state and country may aspire:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby commemorate the life and legacy of John Furniss Bondurant of Forest, Mississippi, and extend most heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be

furnished to Mrs. Iva Dee Bondurant, Dr. Sidney Bondurant, Mr. Si
Morgan Bondurant and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 25, 2014


SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
March 26, 2014


PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE