

By: Senator(s) Little, White (5th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 598

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF  
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER,  
3 PRENTISS COUNTY CHANCERY CLERK AND WORLD WAR II COMBAT VETERAN  
4 HERSHEL G. JUMPER, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, few civic leaders and military veterans have left  
6 more significant footprints across Mississippi and United States  
7 history than did former Mississippi Highway Commissioner, Prentiss  
8 County Chancery Clerk, retired farmer, Prentiss County  
9 schoolteacher and World War II combat veteran Hershel G. Jumper of  
10 Jumpertown, Mississippi, who died on Thursday, November 22, 2001,  
11 at age 78; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Jumper served as Northern District Highway  
13 Commissioner from 1968 to 1976, implementing a \$900 Million  
14 highway construction program and constructing more miles of  
15 highways in Mississippi to date than any other prior period,  
16 championed projects to widen Mississippi Highway 6 between  
17 Batesville and Oxford and United States Highway 82 between  
18 Starkville and Columbus, Mississippi, in order to make travel  
19 safer for students at Ole Miss and at MSCW, and Commissioner  
20 Jumper was the first to hire black managers of state road crews  
21 during the early 1970's; and

22 WHEREAS, he was born in Prentiss County on February 22, 1923,  
23 and attended the public schools of Prentiss County, graduating  
24 from high school in 1942; and

25 WHEREAS, Mr. Jumper was a decorated World War II combat  
26 veteran, first serving with the 3rd Infantry in North Africa,  
27 Sicily, Italy and Southern France where he served with fellow  
28 soldier, friend and American hero Audie Murphy; he was severely



29 wounded on December 23, 1944, on the Rhine River in the famous  
30 Battle of the Bulge, where he lost his right arm at the elbow,  
31 lost part of his hip and received shrapnel wounds all over his  
32 body, resulting in a body cast for a long period of time; in 1945  
33 he was returned to the United States and was hospitalized in  
34 veterans hospitals in Atlanta and Memphis, from where he was  
35 discharged from military service after receiving the Order of the  
36 Purple Heart and the Bronze Star; and

37 WHEREAS, he entered Mississippi State University, graduating  
38 with a B.S. Degree in Education in 1949, taught in the Booneville  
39 public school system, was appointed to the Booneville Housing  
40 Authority Board in 1950, was elected Chancery Clerk of Prentiss  
41 County in 1951, serving for the next eight years, was employed by  
42 Road Builders Equipment Company in Memphis, Tennessee, and then in  
43 1967 was elected to the Mississippi Highway Commission, where he  
44 served as Chairman; and

45 WHEREAS, he was a member of Jumpertown United Methodist  
46 Church, was a Mason, a Shriner, member of the Scottish Rite, the  
47 Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the Veterans of Foreign Wars  
48 (VFW), the American Legion, the 40 & 8, and the Military Order of  
49 the Purple Heart; and

50 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Lu Jumper; a son, Gatha  
51 Dees Jumper and his wife, Mary; three grandchildren and six  
52 great-children, all of Jumpertown; three sisters; one brother; one  
53 stepsister; and two stepbrothers; and

54 WHEREAS, Mississippi will long remember this respected civic  
55 leader and veteran, who was a man of honesty, integrity and vision  
56 for Mississippi's future:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
58 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
59 we do hereby commend the life and legacy of public service of  
60 former Mississippi Highway Commissioner, Prentiss County Chancery  
61 Clerk and World War II combat veteran Hershel G. Jumper, of



62 Jumpertown, Mississippi, and express to his family the sympathy of  
63 the Legislature on his passing.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
65 presented to Hershel's wife, Lu, and members of his family, and be  
66 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

