

By: Senator(s) Little, White (5th), Gordon, Minor, Jordan, Farris, Tollison, Dearing, King, Stogner, Browning, Thames, Harvey, Nunnelee 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.

