

By: Senator(s) Little

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 522

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LEGACY OF PUBLIC  
2 SERVICE OF ELBERT R. HILLIARD AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON THE  
3 OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 39 REMARKABLE YEARS WITH THE  
4 MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY.

5 WHEREAS, Elbert R. Hilliard has faithfully served the  
6 Mississippi Department of Archives and History for 39 years,  
7 having joined the staff of the department in 1965 as Curator of  
8 History at the State Historical Museum, and it is with  
9 appreciation that we recognize his dedication and devotion upon  
10 his retirement; and

11 WHEREAS, appointed the first Director of the Division of  
12 Historic Sites and Archaeology in 1970, Mr. Hilliard was  
13 subsequently elected the fifth Director of the Mississippi  
14 Department of Archives and History in 1973, and it is with honor,  
15 dedication and great distinction that he has served in that office  
16 for the past 31 years; and

17 WHEREAS, closely associated with three of the four previous  
18 Department Directors, William D. McCain, Charlotte Capers and  
19 Richard A. McLemore, Mr. Hilliard's association and leadership  
20 maintained the continuity of the work of the department, fostering  
21 its growth to become a multifaceted historical agency with a  
22 national reputation for excellence; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Hilliard's accomplishments as director are  
24 numerous and impressive, and his track record is evidence of his  
25 adamancy for the preservation of Mississippi's rich history; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Hilliard has worked tirelessly with the  
27 Mississippi Legislature to strengthen and clarify Mississippi's  
28 laws governing historic preservation, resulting in the passage of

29 the State Antiquities Law, in addition to securing authorization  
30 and funding for a series of grant programs, which have been a  
31 great boon to historic sites and programs around the state; and

32 WHEREAS, over the past decade, the Department of Archives and  
33 History has awarded or administered approximately Thirty Million  
34 Dollars in grant funds for the preservation of courthouses,  
35 historic schools, museums and other sites; and

36 WHEREAS, a leader in Mississippi's grassroots preservation  
37 movement, offering staunch support to local preservation groups  
38 and single-handedly raising thousands of dollars for the  
39 Mississippi Heritage Trust, Mr. Hilliard has traveled throughout  
40 the state to promote the creation of a records management program  
41 for cities, counties and for state government records; and

42 WHEREAS, Mr. Hilliard spearheaded funding efforts for the  
43 construction of the William F. Winter Archives and History  
44 Building, dedicated in 2003, which is one of the most renowned  
45 museums and tourist attractions in the state; and

46 WHEREAS, under his directorship, the Old Capitol Museum has  
47 grown in grandeur, being designated a Smithsonian Affiliate in  
48 2001, and has greatly expanded its public programming and mounted  
49 award-winning exhibits, including the first permanent Civil Rights  
50 exhibit in the country; and

51 WHEREAS, Mr. Hilliard's profound impact on the effort to  
52 preserve and interpret Mississippi history has afforded him the  
53 grand honor of being appointed, by the Board of Trustees of the  
54 Department of Archives and History, Director Emeritus of the  
55 Department; and

56 WHEREAS, Mr. Hilliard's career was marked by hard work,  
57 professionalism, passion and vision. His efforts to promote  
58 meaningful historic preservation and the archiving of historical  
59 artifacts and records will benefit Mississippi for generations to  
60 come. His personal relationships were marked by his humility,

61 integrity and unflagging good humor and optimism. Like the  
62 records he kept, Elbert Hilliard is a state treasure:

63         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
64 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
65 we do hereby commend the public service of Elbert R. Hilliard upon  
66 the occasion of his retirement and express acknowledgment and  
67 appreciation for his extraordinary service to the State of  
68 Mississippi and wish him continued success in all his future  
69 endeavors.

70         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
71 presented to Mr. Elbert R. Hilliard, forwarded to the Board of  
72 Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History,  
73 and be made available to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.