

By: Senator(s) Little, Browning, Butler,
Chaney, Clarke, Dearing, Doxey, Frazier,
Gollott, Gordon, Harvey, Hewes, Horhn, Hyde-
Smith, King, Kirby, Nunnelee, Robertson,
Thames, Tollison, Turner, Walls, White,
Wilemon, Moffatt

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.