

By: Representative Bounds

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 19

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING TOLBERT  
2 CHEVROLET UPON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY.

3 WHEREAS, Tolbert Chevrolet celebrated their 50th Anniversary  
4 of becoming a General Motors dealership on Friday, October 30,  
5 2015, in commemorative recognition of an enterprise that has stood  
6 the test of time, with the community coming together to  
7 acknowledge the amazing impact they have made for decades; and

8 WHEREAS, the late Billy Gene Tolbert founded this business  
9 based on a feeling of trust from the community that started when  
10 he sold used cars at the location of the current NAPA Auto Parts  
11 building in Philadelphia, Mississippi, which was a novel idea to  
12 this small town, and he eventually moved to sign a deal with  
13 General Motors in 1965; and

14 WHEREAS, this great patriarch had the foresight to grow his  
15 business for generations to come, and after signing with  
16 Chevrolet, he moved to their current building in 1969, one of the  
17 first structures built by W.G. Yates and Sons Construction Company  
18 and subsequently added Oldsmobile to his fleet of inventory; and



19           WHEREAS, Billy Gene did not stop there, he began involving  
20 his children, Robert Tolbert, Gene Tolbert and Tammy Tolbert  
21 Tawater, early to create a lasting dynasty, and they recall their  
22 father's fortitude in 1982 when he decided to add other cars and  
23 signed Buick and Pontiac at the height of a terrible economy when  
24 interest rates were as high as 21 percent but this bold move has  
25 proved invaluable over the course of history; and

26           WHEREAS, upon Billy Gene's passing, the children continued  
27 his legacy by means of over 122 years of combined experience  
28 selling cars with hardly any turnover among the staff, including  
29 longtime employee and friend of Billy Gene, Hoot Tingle, a man who  
30 so clearly loves his job and this family; and

31           WHEREAS, the Tolberts have maintained good will with the  
32 community and General Motors as evidenced by an exhibit in their  
33 office displaying a poster of the 2002 *Time Magazine* cover with an  
34 image of their father awarded best new car dealer of the year for  
35 the State of Mississippi; and

36           WHEREAS, this honor comes from their reputation, which is  
37 exactly how they have stayed in business for 50 years and sold  
38 upwards of 20,000 vehicles, a reputation they may never lose, as  
39 maintaining satisfied customers is all they have ever known with  
40 75 to 80 percent of their business coming from repeat customers;  
41 and

42           WHEREAS, this anniversary, taking place in a building that  
43 has barely changed over the years, gave the brothers an



44 opportunity to reminisce about their very first unforgettable  
45 sales, Robert sold a new 1973 Oldsmobile Delta 88, and Gene  
46 remembers a nurse that drove from Meridian to buy a brand new  
47 Pontiac Bonneville; and

48 WHEREAS, hundreds of members of the community came out to  
49 this celebration with a theme based on the Chevrolet jingle from  
50 the 1970s, "Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie and Chevrolet, They Go  
51 Together in the Good 'Ole USA..." and all of those items were  
52 featured including classic cars, two of which were sold that day,  
53 a red 1970 Chevelle SS and a yellow 1969 Chevelle SS; and

54 WHEREAS, the Tolberts have devoted their lives to the family  
55 business bringing outstanding service and a joy in what they do to  
56 the Philadelphia community while also living out this David  
57 Rockefeller quote, "Success in business requires training and  
58 discipline and hard work. But if you're not frightened by these  
59 things, the opportunities are just as great today as they ever  
60 were."; and

61 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to honor and  
62 recognize the legacy of success of Mississippi's business owners  
63 and businesses that have made substantial strides in promoting the  
64 limitless economic potential as has been evidenced by the  
65 practices and accomplishments of Tolbert Chevrolet:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
67 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING



68 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Tolbert  
69 Chevrolet upon 50 years of service to the General Motors industry.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
71 furnished to Tolbert Chevrolet, the Tolbert Family and to the  
72 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

