

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Barnett, Caughman, Hopson, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Jolly, Parker, Parks, Stone

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 536

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE FOR THE EDUCATIONAL LEGACY OF STATE BOARD
3 OF EDUCATION CHAIRMAN DR. OLEN WAYNE GANN.

4 WHEREAS, longtime respected Mississippi Educator,
5 Administrator and Community Leader Dr. Olen Wayne Gann announced
6 his retirement as Chairman of the State Board of Education
7 effective June 30, 2015. His career and his work on behalf of the
8 students of Mississippi are an indelible legacy of progress; and

9 WHEREAS, Olen Wayne Gann was born in 1943 to the late W.C.
10 (Clyde) and Veola Gann of Mantachie, the middle of five boys. He
11 attended Mantachie School until the end of his junior year in
12 1960. Wayne enrolled in Itawamba Junior College in the Fall of
13 1960 and graduated in 1962. Mr. Gann attended the University of
14 Mississippi where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Math in 1964,
15 Master's in 1965, and Doctor of Education in 1972; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Gann taught math at East Union High School for
17 two years. He then taught mathematics and physics at W.P. Daniel
18 High School in New Albany for two years. In 1968, at the age of



19 24, he became Principal and served as Principal for six years.
20 Olen Wayne Gann became Superintendent of the Corinth School
21 District in 1974 and served until June 2001, making him the
22 longest tenured Superintendent in the history of the Corinth
23 School District. Upon moving to Corinth, Dr. Gann became active
24 in the community and began the process of building the Corinth
25 Schools into one of the best school districts in Mississippi; and

26 WHEREAS, when one looks at Dr. Gann's résumé, you see that
27 his community involvement/service parallels his educational
28 career. He was active in the New Albany Community as a Teacher
29 and Principal and this same level of involvement continued after
30 moving to Corinth in 1974. Dr. Gann and his family joined the
31 First United Methodist Church when they moved to Corinth. He
32 became a member of the Administrative Board and served as Vice
33 President of his Sunday School class. He served on the
34 Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, the Chairman of the Trustee,
35 and as Chairman of the Council on Ministries. Other community
36 activities have included being a member of the Board of Directors
37 of the Community Fund and a member of the Budget Committee of this
38 organization; he served on the Board of Directors of Horizon and
39 the Partnership of a Healthy Alcorn County. Having served as Vice
40 President and President on the Board of Directors of the Corinth
41 Rotary Club, he was selected as Rotarian of the Year in 1985 and
42 was named a Paul Harris Fellow. The Rotary Club again recognized
43 him in 1994 for commitment to service to one's profession. Dr.



44 Gann has been involved in numerous civic projects with the Corinth
45 Rotary Club; and

46 WHEREAS, after moving to Corinth, Dr. Gann became involved
47 with the Corinth-Alcorn Area Chamber of Commerce. He was elected
48 as Secretary, Vice President, and President of the Corinth-Alcorn
49 Area Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Gann also served the Chamber as
50 Chairman of the Education Committee and served several terms on
51 the Board of Directors; and

52 WHEREAS, Corinth School District was the first and one of the
53 only two districts in the state in 1993 to attain Level 5
54 accreditation rating as a Model School District. The Corinth
55 School District was Level 5 consistently for many years. Under
56 Dr. Gann's leadership, the Corinth Schools proved that a school
57 district can maintain a balance of academic achievement and
58 extracurricular activities. While maintaining among the highest
59 achievement and ACT test scores in the state, Corinth athletic
60 teams won 16 State Championships. The performing arts groups also
61 won state competitions and competed in national competitions; and

62 WHEREAS, Dr. Gann retired in 2001. Since retirement, he has
63 worked part time as a Consultant for the State Department of
64 Education, the Mississippi School Boards Association, and local
65 school districts. In 2006, Dr. Gann was appointed to the
66 Mississippi Board of Education, and he has served with distinction
67 as Chairman of the Board for the past two years serving during
68 legislative sessions addressing critical educational issues of



69 funding, conservatorship, consolidation and student assessment;
70 and

71 WHEREAS, since 2003, Dr. Gann has served on the Board of
72 Trustees of the Magnolia Health Center. He was Chairman of that
73 Board for two years and has been Chairman of the Finance Committee
74 for several years. He is married to former Martha Jane Nanney and
75 they have one daughter, Vicki Childress, a practicing dentist in
76 Corinth and married to Dr. Lee Childress, Superintendent of the
77 Corinth Schools; and

78 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we honor the legacy and
79 career of a school administrator who has enriched the lives of all
80 his students and colleagues and of the citizens of the State of
81 Mississippi:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
83 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
84 we do hereby extend the recognition of the Mississippi Legislature
85 for the educational legacy of State Board of Education Chairman
86 Dr. Olen Wayne Gann as he retires from this leadership position on
87 June 30, 2015, and join his family and the educational community
88 on this auspicious occasion.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
90 Dr. Olen Wayne Gann, forwarded to the State Board of Education,
91 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

