

By: Senator(s) Carmichael, Burton, Jackson  
(32nd), Blackwell, Clarke, Dearing,  
Fillingane, Frazier, Jackson (11th),  
McDaniel, Parker, Watson

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 596

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE PASSING OF GOP PIONEER,  
2 TRANSPORTATION ADVISOR AND RESPECTED BUSINESSMAN GILBERT E. "GIL"  
3 CARMICHAEL OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXTENDING THE SYMPATHY OF  
4 THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi Republic patriarch Gil Carmichael, twice  
6 the GOP nominee for Governor, a former Transportation Advisor to  
7 President George H.W. Bush and successful businessman, passed away  
8 January 31, 2016, at the age of 88; and

9 WHEREAS, Carmichael, a successful Car Dealer and Real Estate  
10 Developer, was the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate in 1972  
11 against veteran Democrat James O. Eastland. He ran unsuccessfully  
12 for Governor in 1975 and 1979 against Democrat nominees Cliff  
13 Finch and William Winter. His final race was in 1983 against  
14 Democrat Lieutenant Governor Brad Dye; and

15 WHEREAS, he was born in Columbia, Mississippi, on June 27,  
16 1927, the son of Calvin Ellzey Carmichael of the Goss Community in  
17 Marion County and Clyde Myrna Smith Carmichael of Columbia. He  
18 graduated from Columbia High School in 1944, served in the  
19 military from 1945-1946, and graduated from Texas A&M in 1950 with



20 a degree in business and a minor in petroleum engineering. Gil  
21 was commissioned as an officer in the Coast Guard in the Korean  
22 War, and during his service was awarded the Silver Lifesaving  
23 Medal by the Secretary of the Treasury. He moved to Meridian in  
24 1961 and began his own company, which included two automobile  
25 dealerships and a real estate development company; and

26 WHEREAS, despite never winning an election, Carmichael was a  
27 valuable public policy contributor. Gil was one of the founding  
28 creators of the University of Denver's Intermodal Transportation  
29 Institute. In 1998 he was appointed to the Amtrak Reform Council  
30 by Majority Leader Senator Trent Lott, and in January 1999 he  
31 became the Council's Chairman. President Ford appointed him a  
32 member of the National Transportation Policy Study Commission from  
33 1976 to 1979. He served by Presidential appointment, on and as  
34 Chairman of the National Highway Safety Advisory Committee to the  
35 Secretary of Transportation from 1973 to 1976. Gil was a pioneer  
36 in transportation in Mississippi. In 1987 he helped originate,  
37 author and pass a 1,077-mile statewide four-lane highway  
38 construction program, and was also instrumental in the creation of  
39 a 700-mile regional railroad in East Mississippi and West Alabama,  
40 now a major part of the Kansas City Southern Railroad. Gil also  
41 loved his Scottish and Clarke County roots. He spent many hours  
42 at his family farm in DeSoto, Mississippi, where he enjoyed  
43 spending time with family and friends; and



44           WHEREAS, survivors include his wife of 63 years, Carolyn Dean  
45   (Deanie) White Carmichael; his son, Gilbert Scott Carmichael and  
46   his wife, Laura; grandson, Gilbert Graham Carmichael of Meridian;  
47   sisters, Sue Horton of Enterprise, Mississippi, and Myrna Horton  
48   of Milford, Pennsylvania; three step-grandchildren: Matt Davis  
49   (Stacey), Brittany Griesser (Morgan) and Kimberly Corn (John); and  
50   a host of relatives and friends; and

51           WHEREAS, "Gil Carmichael inspired a generation of Republicans  
52   in 1975 when he became a force in Mississippi politics. He was a  
53   mentor to many state leaders and friends and he will be missed;"  
54   Governor Phil Bryant said:

55           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
56   MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
57   we do hereby mourn the passing of GOP Pioneer Transportation  
58   Advisor and respected businessman Gilbert E. "Gil" Carmichael of  
59   Meridian, Mississippi, and extend the sympathy of the Legislature.

60           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
61   the surviving family of Gil Carmichael, forwarded to the Governor  
62   and Mississippi's congressional delegation, and be made available  
63   to the Capitol Press Corps.

