

By: Senator(s) Blackwell, Barnett, Burton,  
Fillingane, Frazier, Jackson (11th), Jackson  
(32nd), Massey, McDaniel, McMahan, Parker

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 598

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SERVICE AND  
2 CAREER OF DECORATED WORLD WAR II VETERAN, FORMER OLIVE BRANCH  
3 ALDERMAN, DESOTO COUNTY SUPERVISOR, COMMUNITY LEADER AND  
4 SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN BILLY GRAY "BILL" ALLEN AND EXTENDING THE  
5 PROFOUND SORROW OF THE LEGISLATURE TO HIS SURVIVING FAMILY ON HIS  
6 PASSING.

7 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of  
8 decorated World War II Veteran, Alderman, Supervisor and DeSoto  
9 County Community leader and businessman Bill Allen on February 10,  
10 2016; and

11 WHEREAS, Billy Gray "Bill" Allen was born on September 21,  
12 1924, in Cockrum, Mississippi. His parents were William H. "Will"  
13 Allen and Edith Nora French Allen. Mr. Allen grew up in Cockrum  
14 and attended high school in Olive Branch, where he graduated in  
15 the spring of 1942. After graduating from Olive Branch High  
16 School, he joined the United States Army Air Force at the age of  
17 18 years old. He completed training at the Army Air Force Gunnery  
18 School and was assigned to the 457th Bombardment Squadron of the  
19 330th Bomb Group on the eleven-man crew of a Boeing B-29  
20 Superfortress bomber called the City of San Jose. He was



21 stationed on the island of Guam in the North Pacific and he flew  
22 on numerous bombing missions over Japan during his tour of duty.  
23 He was honorably discharged in February 1946, at the rank of Staff  
24 Sergeant after receiving the U.S. Army Air Medal; and

25 WHEREAS, in 1949, Mr. Allen met Marthola Smith while working  
26 on a construction job in Dresden, Tennessee, and were married in  
27 September of that year. Their marriage lasted 64 years, until  
28 Marthola's death in March 2013. The couple have two daughters,  
29 Dr. Edith Robinson and Mrs. Ellen Haraway; four grandchildren:  
30 Mrs. Leigh Ellen Robinson Doddridge, Mrs. Maggie Robinson  
31 Yacoubian, Mrs. Lucia Haraway Nelson, and Dr. Neil Haraway; and 10  
32 great-grandchildren; and

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen had served the Olive Branch community in  
34 numerous ways throughout his life. He was elected Deacon in the  
35 First Baptist Church of Olive Branch in 1959 and served as Deacon  
36 Emeritus there until his death. He was on the Olive Branch Board  
37 of Aldermen for 4 years; he represented Olive Branch on the DeSoto  
38 County Board of Supervisors for 8 years; and he was instrumental  
39 in starting the Olive Branch Volunteer Ambulance Service where  
40 both he and his wife, Marthola, served as volunteer first  
41 responders on the ambulance for 15 years. Additionally, he was a  
42 charter member of the Olive Branch Chamber of Commerce. He was a  
43 member of the Rotary Club from its inception in Olive Branch, and  
44 was presented the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Fellow Award in 2013.  
45 Mr. Allen was also a charter member of and helped organize the



46 Olive Branch Country Club in the early 1960s. He served as  
47 Director of the Olive Branch Christmas Parade for 10 years, and he  
48 and Mrs. Allen were named as Co-Grand Marshals of the parade in  
49 1998; and

50 WHEREAS, Mr. Allen was a successful businessman in Olive  
51 Branch for over 50 years. He was co-owner of the Allen-Davidson  
52 Lumber Company in Olive Branch for several years and a partner in  
53 Almac Construction Company. Almac built over 150 new homes in and  
54 around Olive Branch from 1970 to 1990; and

55 WHEREAS, because of his legacy of dedicated service to the  
56 Olive Branch community, Mr. Allen was selected for induction into  
57 the Olive Branch Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame Induction  
58 Ceremony for him and four other inductees is scheduled for this  
59 April; and

60 WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this  
61 most public-spirited citizen of Mississippi who leaves a legacy of  
62 military and public service and business leadership in his  
63 community and state:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
65 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
66 we do hereby pay tribute to the service and career of decorated  
67 World War II Veteran, former Olive Branch Alderman, DeSoto County  
68 Supervisor, Community Leader and successful businessman Billy Gray  
69 "Bill" Allen and extend the profound sorrow of the Legislature to  
70 his surviving family on his passing.



71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
72 the surviving family of Bill Allen, forwarded to the Olive Branch  
73 Board of Aldermen and the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors, and  
74 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

