

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Blount, Horhn,  
Norwood

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 595

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING RETIRED CLINTON PUBLIC  
2 SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT DR. VIRGIL BELUE UPON HIS RECEIPT  
3 OF THE "EDUCATION HERO AWARD" FROM THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF  
4 PARTNERS IN EDUCATION.

5 WHEREAS, we join the public education community in offering  
6 congratulations to retired Clinton Public School District  
7 Superintendent Dr. Virgil Belue, recipient of the Education Hero  
8 Award from the Mississippi Association of Partners in Education;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Belue was Clinton Public School District's first  
11 Superintendent and served in this role from 1970-1992. Under his  
12 leadership, the school district grew from three to seven schools  
13 and a vocational center while emerging as one of Mississippi's top  
14 school districts; and

15 WHEREAS, after retiring with 17 years on the Board of  
16 Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System, in 2013 Dr.  
17 Belue was honored by the Mississippi Legislature for 60 years of  
18 public service; and



19           WHEREAS, Dr. Belue's success in restoring the promise of  
20 public education has something to teach us all. On July 28, 1970,  
21 Dr. Belue became the first Superintendent of the schools in  
22 Clinton, Mississippi, a district that did not exist until a few  
23 weeks before. In 1954, with the landmark case of Brown v. Board  
24 of Education, the Supreme Court had declared the segregation of  
25 schools to be unconstitutional. The fact that no one sued Clinton  
26 can be traced to decisions that Belue began making 46 years ago.  
27 What Belue did was both very simple and extremely difficult. Over  
28 time, carefully keeping local parents in the loop, he managed to  
29 rid Clinton of the "neighborhood school" concept, which allowed  
30 districts to redraw their boundaries street by street in order to  
31 maintain white and black schools as racial composition shifted.  
32 He designed a single school system for the whole Clinton district  
33 so that students move through the schools together, from  
34 kindergarten through high school, regardless of where they live.  
35 Belue did, in other words, what many school districts have not  
36 done to this day: He eliminated not only de jure segregation,  
37 which the Supreme Court had outlawed, but also the de facto  
38 segregation; and

39           WHEREAS, in addition to his work in public schools, Dr. Belue  
40 taught undergraduate and graduate courses for Mississippi State  
41 University and Mississippi College. Before retiring, Dr. Belue  
42 had "A" and "AA" teacher certification in Social Studies and



43 "AAAA" certification in School Administration and School Guidance  
44 and Counseling; and

45 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we pay tribute to this most  
46 public-spirited citizen of the State of Mississippi, whose  
47 enormous civic energy is a legacy of leadership and dedication:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
49 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
50 we do hereby recognize retired Clinton Public School District  
51 Superintendent Dr. Virgil Belue upon his receipt of the "Education  
52 Hero Award" from the Mississippi Association of Partners in  
53 Education.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
55 Dr. Belue, forwarded to the Executive Director of Mississippi  
56 Association of Partners in Education, and made available to the  
57 Capitol Press Corps.

