

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Dearing, Frazier,  
Harkins, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 638

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP  
2 AND DEDICATION OF GARY J. HERRING, HEAD OF SCHOOL OF FIRST  
3 PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

4 WHEREAS, Gary J. Herring was born in Brandon, Mississippi, on  
5 January 24, 1952, to parents who were both educators. Gary  
6 graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1973, and moved to  
7 Montgomery, Alabama, where he earned his Master's Degree in  
8 Business Administration from Auburn University in 1978; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1980, Gary and his wife Jerri and two young  
10 daughters moved from Montgomery to Jackson, Mississippi, for Gary  
11 to assume the position of Business Administrator of First  
12 Presbyterian Church. After being approached by the Board of  
13 Trustees of First Presbyterian Day School to determine his  
14 interest in becoming Head of School, Gary enrolled at Mississippi  
15 College to receive a Master of Education, Administration and  
16 Curriculum to prepare for the job; and

17 WHEREAS, Gary became the third Head of School of First  
18 Presbyterian Day School in 1987 and has faithfully served for more



19 than 30 years. The kingdom school began in 1965 and continues  
20 today with a mission of: planting seeds of Christlikeness in the  
21 hearts of children, pursuing excellence in academics, and  
22 preparing students for future service in God's kingdom in their  
23 homes, churches, and professions; and

24 WHEREAS, during Gary's tenure, the school has seen  
25 substantial growth: remodeling of the art room, library, and  
26 state-of-the-art science lab; the addition of a K3 and K4  
27 preschool program and a new preschool center; the establishment of  
28 a dyslexia immersion program; a renovated gymnasium; an updated  
29 stage for school productions; and a new playground; and

30 WHEREAS, also during Gary's years of service to First  
31 Presbyterian Day School, the school has experienced a reduction in  
32 student-teacher ratios; the addition of a day care for children of  
33 faculty and staff; numerous curriculum changes; the development of  
34 strategic plans; the introduction of modern technology to  
35 students, faculty, and classrooms; and the implementation of a  
36 schoolwide mission project that has raised thousands of dollars  
37 for various ministries at home and abroad; and

38 WHEREAS, in 2013, Gary received the Joe F. Shepard Memorial  
39 Award from the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools and  
40 has overseen the school's membership in the organization. Gary  
41 and Jerri have been married for more than 40 years and are the  
42 proud parents of Leslie Miley (Ben) and Lindsey Vira (Joey) and



43 are blessed with five grandchildren: Bailey Grace and Beckley  
44 Vira, Walker and Katie Poole, and Will Miley; and

45 WHEREAS, Gary has humbly given God all the glory during his  
46 years of service to the school and will retire from the position  
47 of Head of School of First Presbyterian Day School in June 2018;  
48 and

49 WHEREAS, throughout Herring's tenure at First Presbyterian  
50 Day School, the school has planted seeds of Christlikeness in  
51 thousands of children:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
53 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
54 we do hereby join the students and Administration of First  
55 Presbyterian Day School, along with the Herring family and the  
56 community at large, in recognizing Gary Herring for his prayerful,  
57 humble, and godly leadership to First Presbyterian Day School  
58 since 1987 and extend our best wishes to him on his retirement.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
60 the Board of Trustees of First Presbyterian Day School, the  
61 Herring family, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

