

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Harkins, Barnett,
Dearing, DeBar, Frazier, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jolly

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 591

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED PUBLIC
2 SERVICE OF FIREFIGHTER INSTRUCTOR REGGIE BELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
3 OF THE MISSISSIPPI STATE FIRE ACADEMY IN PEARL, MISSISSIPPI, ON
4 THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi National Guard Fire Support Specialist
6 and longtime Firefighter Instructor Reggie Bell has announced his
7 retirement as Executive Director of the Mississippi State Fire
8 Academy in Pearl, Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, Reggie Bell, 60, has served as Executive Director of
10 the academy for nine years. He first came to the academy in 1992
11 as a Staff Instructor after serving for eight years with the fire
12 department in Starkville, Mississippi, starting in 1984. He has
13 also been serving as an Instructor for the National Fire Academy
14 in Emmitsburg, Maryland, since 1998. Over the course of his
15 career, Reggie has instructed firefighters in 36 states on
16 handling arson, fire investigation and emergency response to
17 terrorism involving fires; and

18 WHEREAS, currently a Brandon resident, Reggie was born in
19 Starkville and attended Starkville High School. After graduation,



20 he enrolled at William Carey College, now William Carey
21 University, in Hattiesburg in 1974 with the intent to get a
22 business degree. After a year he entered the Mississippi National
23 Guard; and

24 WHEREAS, Reggie served in the National Guard for 23 years as
25 a Fire Support Specialist for an Artillery Battalion before
26 retiring from service in 1997. The Guard activated his battalion
27 for Operation Desert Storm in 1990 but never actually sent Bell's
28 group abroad. He was stationed at Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg in
29 1991, and in 1992 he started working for the Mississippi State
30 Fire Academy. Serving as an Instructor at the Academy required
31 seven years' experience in fire service and a specific level of
32 firefighting training, which Bell undertook at the National Fire
33 Academy while serving in the National Guard; and

34 WHEREAS, Bell said that his decision to enter the National
35 Guard and serve as a firefighter instead of attending college in
36 part stemmed from his father and grandfather, John A. Bell and
37 R.M. Bell, who both served in the United States Army as Sergeants.
38 "My father and grandfather were both patriots, and I felt and saw
39 a need for service as a patriot myself," Bell said. "As a boy, I
40 was fascinated and inspired when I saw fire trucks heading to the
41 scene of a fire to help people. I got into service so I could
42 help people in their time of need, as well"; and

43 WHEREAS, as Executive Director of the Mississippi State Fire
44 Academy, Reggie Bell hosted the Pink Heals Tour, a nonprofit



45 organization that raises awareness and funds for families battling
46 cancer, the first time the tour has come to Jackson. "The
47 commitment to service is why we are supporting Pink Heals. Pink
48 Heals, Inc., represents a very needed cause, and we want to do
49 anything we can to help them in their efforts," said Reggie; and

50 WHEREAS, Reggie and his wife, Cookie, have been married 29
51 years and have three children: daughter Jacque Kinard, who lives
52 in Starkville; daughter Rhonda Ledbetter, who lives in Aberdeen,
53 Mississippi; and son Glen Ledbetter, who lives in Columbus,
54 Mississippi; and

55 WHEREAS, under his leadership the Fire Academy has enhanced
56 the safety of personnel through the purchase of the latest
57 equipment, and has provided economic opportunities for employees
58 through career tech and fire school programs, and has increased
59 the involvement in the community through charitable events such as
60 Pink Heals. He has the respect of his colleagues and we credit
61 the high morale of the academy to his leadership; and

62 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we commend the public
63 and military service of a professional firefighter who leaves a
64 legacy of service and dedication to all in Mississippi:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
66 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
67 we do hereby recognize the dedicated public service of Firefighter
68 Instructor Reggie Bell, Executive Director of the Mississippi
69 State Fire Academy in Pearl, Mississippi, on the occasion of his



70 retirement, and extend to Reggie and his family our best wishes
71 for future success.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
73 Reggie Bell and his family, forwarded to the Governor and the
74 Mississippi Commissioner of Insurance, and made available to the
75 Capitol Press Corps.

