

By: Senator(s) Michel, Blount, Harkins,
Jackson (15th), Clarke, Branning, Blackwell,
Bryan, Hopson, Seymour, Moran, Tollison,
Gollott, Simmons (13th), Jordan, Massey,
Younger, Watson, Chassaniol, Jackson (11th),
Caughman, Dearing, Doty, Kirby, Browning,
Wiggins, Turner-Ford, Fillingane, Butler,
Parks, Witherspoon, McMahan, Barnett, Parker,
Whaley, DeBar, Jolly

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 641

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE PUBLIC CAREER AND
2 RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF CENTRAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION
3 COMMISSIONER, FORMER MISSISSIPPI SENATOR AND REPRESENTATIVE, DICK
4 HALL OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi Central District Transportation
6 Commissioner, former State Senator and Representative, Dick Hall
7 from Jackson, Mississippi, has announced that he will not seek
8 reelection in 2019. Commissioner Hall is completing 21 years on
9 the three-member transportation regulatory body. Mississippians
10 owe Commissioner Hall a debt of gratitude for his service and he
11 is leaving a lasting legacy to the history of our state; and

12 WHEREAS, Mississippi Transportation Commissioner Dick Hall is
13 a lifelong Mississippian whose family helped to settle the
14 Mississippi Territory. After earning a Bachelor's Degree from
15 Mississippi State University, he served as an Officer in the
16 United States Army Field Artillery; and

17 WHEREAS, prior to being elected Commissioner, Hall served 24
18 years in the Mississippi Legislature. His experience in the
19 Mississippi Legislature was extremely broad-based, serving three



20 terms as a Representative and three terms as a Senator. In both
21 the House and the Senate, Hall chaired the Environment Committees
22 of each chamber, respectively. Other chairmanships included the
23 Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee and the Senate
24 Appropriations Committee, the first Republican to occupy this
25 position in over 100 years; and

26 WHEREAS, during his time in the Legislature, Dick Hall
27 authored and co-authored many pieces of legislation. Some of his
28 greatest accomplishments were the passing of the Education Reform
29 Act of 1982, the 1987 Four-Lane Highway Program, the Budget Reform
30 Act of 1992, and the Mental Health Reform Act of 1997; and

31 WHEREAS, Dick Hall was appointed Central District
32 Transportation Commissioner by Governor Kirk Fordice in 1999 to
33 fill an unexpired term. He is now in his fifth full term as
34 Central District Transportation Commissioner, currently serving as
35 Chairman of the three-member Commission. The Central District
36 covers 22 counties with a population of roughly one million; and

37 WHEREAS, during Hall's 21 years as Commissioner, he has seen
38 many accomplishments across the Central District. Commissioner
39 Hall is known for saying, "We're not just building a
40 transportation system. We're building an economy. MDOT allocates
41 approximately \$150 Million annually to pavement projects, but
42 Commissioner Hall has suggested that an estimated \$1 Billion would
43 be needed to repair pavement to an acceptable condition and \$400
44 Million would be needed annually to maintain pavement in good



condition." In 1987, an election year, business leaders
championed a major Four-Lane Highway Program and higher gas taxes
to fund the program, passed with support of three-term veteran
Representative Dick Hall. Despite the bad political timing, he
joined other conservative legislators behind the leadership of
Representative John Pennebaker to not only pass the program, but
also to override a veto from Governor Bill Allain; and

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi vests oversight of its
transportation resources and operations in a three-member-elected
Mississippi Transportation Commission representing three
geographic areas in the state as defined by the Supreme Court
Districts: Northern, Central and Southern. The commissioners
represent the electorate and have the authority and responsibility
for the supervision of all modes of transportation in the state
dealing with aeronautics, highways, ports, public transit and
railroads. In accordance with state law, the commission is
responsible for planning, developing and coordinating a
comprehensive, balanced intermodal transportation policy for the
state. The commission membership appointed its Chairman, Dick
Hall. The commission appoints an Executive Director of the
Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to carry out the
day-to-day policies and procedures of the agency; and

WHEREAS, despite challenges, Dick Hall has pointed out that
Mississippi has the eighth most efficient Department of
Transportation among all states, and he commends a substantial



number of highway and bridge projects that are in process or complete across the Central Transportation District, such as the addition of lanes on I-55 through portions of Madison and Hinds Counties; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Hall has served as President of the Mississippi Republican-Elected Officials Association and as State Chairman of the United Republican Fund. Other honors have included being the first recipient of the Hugh L. White Free Enterprise Award and Conservation Legislator of the Year, first recipient of the Friend of Education Award, Alumnus of the Year by the Mid-Mississippi Chapter of The Mississippi State University Alumni Association, was honored with the Owen Cooper Memorial Award by the Mississippi Transportation Institute (MTI) at the Owen Cooper Award Luncheon during the 2016 MTI Conference held at the Jackson Convention Center, and won National Significant Sigma Chi of Gamma Upsilon Chapter in 2013. He is a member of the Multi-State I-69 Coalition and was awarded the National Significant Sigma Chi Award. His civic and other memberships include: YMCA; the Mississippi Symphony; March of Dimes; Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation; and the Jackson Touchdown Club; American Health Works Association; Mississippi Wildlife Federation; National Association of Republican Legislators; and Sigma Chi; and

WHEREAS, an Elder and former Deacon in the Presbyterian Church, Dick Hall and his wife, Jennifer, live in the Brandon



95 area. He and Jennifer are members of Lakeside Presbyterian
96 Church. He is the father of three sons, one stepson and one
97 stepdaughter, and four grandchildren who have supported him in all
98 of his endeavors. He is active in his community, serving on
99 various boards of directors and volunteering his time for
100 charitable endeavors; and

101 WHEREAS, while serving in the Legislature, Senator Hall
102 enlightened debates with his intelligent perspective, and garnered
103 unparalleled respect from both sides of the aisle; and

104 WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the service and
105 friendship of our former colleague Dick Hall, and recognize his
106 legacy of infrastructure accountability for this great state that
107 he loved and served:

108 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
109 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
110 we do hereby commend the public career and recognize the legacy of
111 Central District Transportation Commissioner, former Mississippi
112 Senator and Representative Dick Hall, of Brandon, Mississippi, and
113 wish him and his family success in their future endeavors.

114 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
115 Commissioner Dick Hall and his family, forwarded to the
116 Mississippi Transportation Commission, the Speaker of the House of
117 Representatives, the Lieutenant Governor, and made available to
118 the Capitol Press Corps.

