

By: Senator(s) Jackson (32nd), Simmons  
(13th), Blackmon, Blackwell, Blount,  
Branning, Butler, Carter, Chassaniol, DeBar,  
Doty, Fillingane, Frazier, Harkins, Hill,  
Hopson, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th),  
Jordan, McCaughn, McDaniel, McMahan, Moran,  
Norwood, Parker, Parks, Polk, Simmons (12th),  
Sojourner, Suber, Tate, Thomas, Turner-Ford,  
Whaley, Wiggins, Witherspoon, Younger

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 525

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING FORMER  
2 STATE SENATOR AND RECENTLY ELECTED CENTRAL TRANSPORTATION  
3 COMMISSIONER WILLIE SIMMONS AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN ELECTED  
4 TO THE MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION.

5 WHEREAS, Willie Simmons is entering his first term as Central  
6 District Transportation Commissioner which covers 22 counties of  
7 North Mississippi with a population of approximately one million  
8 people; and

9 WHEREAS, Commissioner Simmons served as a Mississippi State  
10 Senator for more than 26 years, first elected in 1993. For the  
11 last 8 years, he served as Chairman of the Senate Highways and  
12 Transportation Committee; and

13 WHEREAS, under his leadership in the Senate, over \$5 Billion  
14 was spent throughout the state on the construction and upgrade of  
15 federal and state roads, county and municipal streets and bridges,  
16 and also, millions of dollars on public transit, ports, railroads,  
17 airports and other infrastructure support systems. He played an  
18 integral role on projects such as the repair of the Woodrow Wilson  
19 Bridge in Jackson; the upgrade and repair of Highway 8 in



20 Cleveland; and the Highway 82 Bypass in Leland among many others;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, he also served as Chairman of the Corrections  
23 Committee and Vice Chairman of the Public Health and Welfare  
24 Committee. Commissioner Willie Simmons is a man of integrity and  
25 hard work with a complete knowledge of Mississippi's highway  
26 finance and corrections systems, and there is an acknowledged  
27 respect of our esteemed colleague, gentleman and enlightened  
28 lawmaker; and

29 WHEREAS, Simmons served as Deputy Commissioner of Corrections  
30 prior to joining the Mississippi State Senate. Before that time,  
31 he served as a Combat Veteran of the Vietnam War. He is a  
32 graduate of Alcorn State University, and received a Master of  
33 Science Degree and Educational Specialist Degree from Delta State  
34 University. He is a member of Solomon Chapel African Methodist  
35 Episcopal Church and his affiliations include: American  
36 Correctional Association; Bolivar County 100 Black Men; Prince  
37 Hall Mason; Omega Psi Phi; NAACP; and Alcorn State University and  
38 Delta State University Alumni Associations; and

39 WHEREAS, he is married to Rose Sibley Simmons and they have  
40 four children: Avery, Christopher, Reginald and Sarita; and ten  
41 grandchildren; and

42 WHEREAS, Commissioner Simmons's service has been marked by  
43 his commitment to success and recognized leadership, sound  
44 judgment and fairness. He has set the highest standard in all his



45 many roles, as a father, husband, businessman, Veteran, citizen,  
46 statesman, leader in the Mississippi Senate and Commissioner of  
47 Mississippi Transportation Commission and as a true friend:

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 and congratulate former State Senator and  
51 newly elected Central Transportation Commissioner Willie Simmons  
52 as the first African American elected to the Mississippi  
53 Transportation Commission, and we wish Willie and his family much  
54 success in their future endeavors.

55       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
56 Commissioner Willie Simmons, forwarded to the Mississippi  
57 Transportation Commission, and made available to the Capitol Press  
58 Corps.

