

By: Senator(s) Kirby, Blount, Wiggins,
Harkins, Younger, Michel, Tate, DeBar,
Fillingane, Parks, Branning, Caughman,
Frazier, Norwood, Parker, Seymour, Simmons
(12th), Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 584

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF ICONIC
2 VICKSBURG PHYSICIAN DR. WILLIAM BRIGGS HOPSON, JR., A PILLAR IN
3 THE MISSISSIPPI HEALTH-CARE COMMUNITY, AND EXTENDING THE DEEPEST
4 SYMPATHY OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO HIS FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, we join the citizens of Vicksburg and the
6 Mississippi health-care community in mourning the loss of Dr.
7 William Briggs Hopson, Jr., on June 20, 2020, at the age of 82;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, his life was marked by great joy and accomplishment.
10 Dr. Hopson retired in September 2018 after serving 50 years as a
11 physician and an advocate for the medical profession and better
12 medical care in the state. He served as a community activist who
13 served many local organizations from the Red Carpet Bowl to the
14 Miss Mississippi Pageant, and was recognized as a driving force in
15 the design and development of what was then called River Region
16 Medical Center, and is now Merit Health River Region Hospital; and

17 WHEREAS, William Briggs Hopson, Jr., was born in Delhi,
18 Louisiana, in 1937 to the late Mary Jane and W. Briggs Hopson,
19 Sr.; and



20 WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Mississippi, he
21 received his medical degree from the University of Tennessee in
22 Memphis, where he served as chief resident and associate professor
23 of surgery; and

24 WHEREAS, he began his medical career in Vicksburg,
25 Mississippi, at the Street Clinic in 1967. He continued his
26 medical work in Vicksburg until his retirement in 2018. During
27 that time, he served as chief of staff, president and chairman of
28 the board of the local hospital and clinic, respectively. He was
29 elected as a fellow to the American College of Surgeons and a
30 diplomat to the American Board of Surgery. He received numerous
31 accolades throughout his career; and

32 WHEREAS, his passion for trauma medicine resulted in his
33 being named State Trauma Director. In this capacity, he was a
34 representative to the American College of Surgeons for over 25
35 years. He worked with the committee to create national guidelines
36 for Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS). Dr. Hopson taught the
37 first ATLS course in the State of Mississippi and taught ATLS
38 courses around the county. He also served 27 years as the State
39 Medical Director of Emergency Medical Services; and

40 WHEREAS, Governor Kirk Fordice tapped Dr. Hopson to chair the
41 State's Committee on Health Care. During this time, he was
42 instrumental in passing Mississippi's ATLS law, creating levels of
43 trauma centers throughout the state. Governor Ronnie Musgrove



44 appointed him to serve on the Mississippi State Board of Health;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, he served as President of the Mississippi State
47 Medical Association from 1999-2000 and was a delegate to the
48 American Medical Association for eight years. Dr. Hopson served
49 as "Doctor of the Day" in the Mississippi Capitol on an annual
50 basis; and

51 WHEREAS, Dr. Hopson was a former associate professor at the
52 University of Mississippi Medical Center and was named to the 2016
53 Medical Center Hall of Fame; and

54 WHEREAS, he served his country for 18 years, 10 of those
55 being Command Surgeon of the 412th Army Engineering Command; and

56 WHEREAS, Dr. Hopson devoted a large portion of his time to
57 his alma mater, the University of Mississippi. He was elected
58 President of the Alumni Association from 2001-2003. He was later
59 selected to the Alumni Hall of Fame; and

60 WHEREAS, he served as Chairman of the Board of the Miss
61 Mississippi Organization for over 25 years. He and his wife, Pat,
62 were instrumental in preparing representatives for the Miss
63 America Pageant and providing millions of dollars in scholarships
64 for the education of young women throughout the state. In 2017,
65 he received the Miss Mississippi Organization Lifetime Achievement
66 Award; and

67 WHEREAS, Dr. Hopson was active and supportive of many
68 charities in Vicksburg. He was a loyal and active member of



69 Crawford Street United Methodist Church as chairman of the
70 administrative board and Sunday school teacher for over 50 years.
71 He served on numerous local boards, including the Red Carpet Bowl
72 Committee (Chairman), Hinds Community College, Merchants Bank and
73 River Hills Bank. He proudly served as Team Doctor for Warren
74 Central High School for many years. Dr. Hopson gave generously of
75 his time and resources to help countless people throughout the
76 community, state and nation; and

77 WHEREAS, "It's been a joy. I love going to work," Dr. Hopson
78 said in 2017. "The greatest thing I miss is performing surgery
79 and seeing the patient leave the hospital and come back cured of
80 cancer, cured of whatever disease they had. I enjoyed seeing my
81 patients do well. That was my joy in life"; and

82 WHEREAS, Dr. Hopson is survived by his wife of 62 years, Pat
83 Hopson; his brother, Jimmy Hopson (Sue); children, Karen Hopson
84 Hall (Reggie); Kathy Hopson Ricks (Kerry); Senator W. Briggs
85 Hopson III (Ali); and Jay Hopson (Michelle); grandchildren, Anna
86 Kate Moen Modisett (Brian), Tanner Hall, Neal Ricks, Travis Hall,
87 Liam Hopson, Walt Hopson, Wesley Ricks, Hyde Hopson, Hannah Hopson
88 and Jane Hopson; and

89 WHEREAS, Dr. Hopson was an example to others of how to live
90 your convictions with courage, and he will be missed by all who
91 were fortunate enough to have known his special wisdom and wit.
92 We pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this most
93 public-spirited citizen of Mississippi with enormous civic energy:



94 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
95 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
96 we do hereby pay tribute to the life of iconic Vicksburg physician
97 Dr. William Briggs Hopson, Jr., a pillar in the Mississippi
98 health-care community, and extending the deepest sympathy of the
99 Mississippi Legislature to his family.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
101 the surviving family of Dr. Hopson, forwarded to the Mississippi
102 State Medical Association and the Board of Directors of the Miss
103 Mississippi Pageant, and made available to the Capitol Press
104 Corps.

