

By: Senator(s) Harkins, Barnett, Caughman,
DeBar, McMahan, Seymour

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT CAREER AND
2 COMMUNITY SERVICE OF COLONEL CHRIS GILLARD UPON THE OCCASION OF
3 HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY SAFETY PATROL.

4 WHEREAS, after 26 years of service, Colonel Chris Gillard
5 announces his retirement from the Mississippi Highway Safety
6 Patrol effective June 30, 2020. Gillard was appointed to serve as
7 Assistant Commissioner of Public Safety and Mississippi Highway
8 Safety Patrol Colonel over the state's largest law enforcement
9 agency in February 2016; and

10 WHEREAS, prior to his appointment as Colonel, Gillard served
11 in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as Director of the Driver
12 Service Bureau. Over the years he served as Director of Training,
13 Executive Officer to the Commissioner of Public Safety, Governor's
14 Executive Protection Detail, Drug Trafficking Interdiction
15 Officer, and Highway Safety Patrol Recruiter; and

16 WHEREAS, after an injury set him back during his first
17 attempt at Patrol School, he was determined to go back and
18 graduate in the next class offered, which was Cadet Class 49, in



19 1994. That positive willpower served him well throughout his
20 career at the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, as he
21 worked hard to be a role model, hoping others would follow in his
22 footsteps; and

23 WHEREAS, "I would like to thank the men and women of the
24 Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol, along with the employees of the
25 Mississippi Department of Public Safety, who worked under my
26 direction as Colonel and Assistant Commissioner. We are blessed
27 to have a great team of dedicated public servants who will
28 continue working hard to protect the citizens of our great state.
29 I am especially thankful for the support and prayers over the
30 years from my wife, mother, family and friends who encouraged me
31 along the way"; and

32 WHEREAS, Colonel Gillard has been recognized throughout his
33 career in law enforcement and in his community as a member of the
34 DUI 100 Club (1994-1996), Outstanding Trooper of the Year (1997),
35 Mississippi's 25 Most Influential African-Americans by *Our*
36 *Mississippi Magazine* (2019) and *Mississippi Trailblazer of the*
37 *Year* (2019); and

38 WHEREAS, "Colonel Gillard has been a strong leader within the
39 Mississippi Department of Public Safety and a brave public servant
40 within the Mississippi Highway Patrol, dedicated to making
41 Mississippi a better and safer place for all who call our great
42 state home. Never letting anything sideline his commitment to
43 protect his fellow Mississippians, it has been an honor to work



44 with him over the years. Colonel Gillard leaves behind an
45 impressive legacy, and we wish him nothing but the best in his
46 future endeavors," said Governor Tate Reeves; and

47 WHEREAS, when asked about his legacy, Colonel Gillard wants
48 people to know that anything is possible with a strong faith in
49 God and the willful determination to never give up pursuing one's
50 goals. In his retirement, he will continue mentoring young people
51 and providing inspiration. Through his testimony regarding a kid
52 who grew up in government housing, he aspired to fulfill a dream
53 to serve and protect others, never knowing that it would lead him
54 here today; and

55 WHEREAS, his legacy is a strong and safe Mississippi, and for
56 this and a career of selfless service, a grateful state thanks him
57 and his family:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
59 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the law enforcement
60 career and community service of Colonel Chris Gillard upon the
61 occasion of his retirement from the Mississippi Highway Safety
62 Patrol, and extend to Colonel Gillard and his family our best
63 wishes for future successes.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
65 Colonel Chris Gillard, forwarded to Sean Tindell, the Commissioner
66 of Public Safety, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

