

By: Representatives Criswell, Hudson

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 47

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2021 AS "GARY
2 HEMPHILL COMMERCIAL AVIATION MONTH" IN MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, in 1970, Gary Hemphill served with the United States
4 Air Force's 388th Combat Support Group at Korat Royal Thai Air
5 Force Base, Thailand, as an aircraft electrical repair technician;
6 and following service in Southeast Asia, Gary was assigned to the
7 Air Force Systems Command's Weapons Development Center at Kirkland
8 AFB, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and

9 WHEREAS, Gary's duty with the Weapons Development Center
10 allowed him to work with aircraft which included: F-100, F-4E,
11 B-52, KC-135, C-130, T-29, F-104, T-38, WB-56, RB-66, C-121,
12 F-105, A-4, and T-39; and

13 WHEREAS, after serving with the United States Air Force, Gary
14 attended Northeast Louisiana University where he received a
15 bachelor of business administration in management in 1976; and, in
16 1979, Gary completed degree requirements for a bachelor of science
17 in aviation, again at NLU; and, in 1980, Gary began work on his
18 masters degree; and



19 WHEREAS, during this time, he was a graduate assistant in the
20 Aviation Department at NLU teaching classes and coaching the NLU
21 flight team; and after receiving his master of education degree,
22 Gary was hired by Delta State University in Cleveland,
23 Mississippi, where he was an instructor, teaching primary ground
24 instruction, passenger transportation, aviation weather, and
25 aviation law among other subjects; and Gary was, until his
26 appointment as Executive Director, the advisor to the Delta State
27 University Flight Team and advisor to the Delta Psi Chapter of
28 Alpha Eta Rho; and

29 WHEREAS, Gary's career at Delta State saw him rise to
30 Chairman of the Department of Commercial Aviation, and as chairman
31 Gary spent countless hours working to advance commercial aviation
32 in the State of Mississippi; and

33 WHEREAS, even though his duties as chairman required hours of
34 work he continued to be available to students of the Commercial
35 Aviation Department, with his office door always open to any
36 student who wanted to discuss aviation, life, or anything a young
37 college student might face, and he was known to many of his
38 students as "Dr. H" or "Doc", becoming their career advisor, their
39 personal advisor, and most importantly he became their friend; and

40 WHEREAS, even after his retirement from Delta State
41 University in 2003 students continued to seek his advice and his
42 friendship and Gary never failed to spend as much time as needed
43 listening and he always had good sound advice for his former



44 students, and there has been no greater advocate for the aviation
45 profession and industry than Gary; and

46 WHEREAS, he loved airplanes and aviation but more importantly
47 he loved his students and dedicated his life to them, and Gary's
48 students have worked for NASA, flown the President of the United
49 States, the Governor of Mississippi, and are flying airplanes
50 around the world every day; and Gary was responsible for
51 Mississippi becoming a leader in commercial aviation:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
53 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
54 THEREIN, That we do hereby designate the month of April 2021, as
55 "Gary Hemphill Commercial Aviation Month" in Mississippi.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
57 furnished to supporters of "Gary Hemphill Commercial Aviation
58 Month" and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

