

By: Senator(s) Branning, Simmons (13th),
Sparks

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI, AUTOMOBILE DEALER BILL GRIFFIS UPON HIS
3 NOMINATION FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS 2022 *TIME* DEALER OF THE YEAR AWARD
4 RECOGNIZING HIS COMMUNITY SERVICE AND INDUSTRY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

5 WHEREAS, the nomination of Bill Griffis, owner of Griffis
6 Motors Inc., a Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and Ram Dealership in
7 Philadelphia, Mississippi, for the 2022 *TIME* Dealer of the Year
8 award was announced on November 8, 2021, by *TIME*; and

9 WHEREAS, Griffis is one of a select group of 47 dealer
10 nominees from across the country who will be honored at the 105th
11 annual National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) Show in Las
12 Vegas on March 11, 2022. The announcement of this year's annual
13 award was made by Viktoria Degtar, Global Chief Revenue Officer,
14 *TIME*, and Doug Timmerman, President of Dealer Financial Services,
15 Ally Financial; and

16 WHEREAS, the *TIME* Dealer of the Year award is one of the
17 automobile industry's most prestigious and highly coveted honors.
18 Recipients are among the nation's most successful auto dealers who
19 also demonstrate a long-standing commitment to community service.



20 Griffis was chosen to represent the Mississippi Automobile Dealers
21 Association in the National Competition - one of only 47 auto
22 dealers nominated for the 53rd annual award from more than 16,000
23 nationwide; and

24 WHEREAS, a 1972 graduate of the University of Mississippi in
25 Oxford, Griffis earned a B.B.A. in banking and finance. He spent
26 12 years working for banks in Mississippi before joining his
27 mother, Jean, at her Ford Dealership in Philadelphia, where he
28 established a F&I (Finance and Insurance) department and managed
29 sales; and

30 WHEREAS, today, Griffis Motors is a Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep and
31 Ram Dealership, and the family business continues to thrive as
32 Griffis' two sons, niece, adopted son and sister all work at the
33 dealership. He is also proud of the high-performance team of
34 employees he has assembled; and

35 WHEREAS, Griffis is an active member of the Mississippi
36 Automobile Dealers Association and has served in several
37 leadership positions, including Chair in 2020, Vice Chair in 2019
38 and Secretary in 2018. Under his leadership, this organization
39 sponsored a bill that was passed by both legislative houses and
40 signed by the Governor to give Mississippi dealers the same
41 warranty labor and parts reimbursement as 46 other states. This
42 initiative has had a positive effect on every dealer in the state;
43 and



44 WHEREAS, Griffis has also been productive in his community by
45 supporting fundraising efforts and helping to continue quality
46 education. His dealership has always been a substantial
47 contributor to four local schools. They provide driver's
48 education cars, help build new scoreboards for the sports teams,
49 and sponsor every child who comes into the dealership. Over the
50 last 30 years, the dealership has also given a \$1,000.00
51 scholarship to every employee's child who graduated from high
52 school and continued his or her education; and

53 WHEREAS, running a family owned business in a small market,
54 Griffis is thankful for the opportunity to carry his mother's
55 legacy forward and to be an important community partner. Griffis
56 has stated: "My most rewarding experience has been the opportunity
57 to see my children enter this business and excel in their
58 respective areas of responsibility and in the community - from
59 civic leaders to just great parents"; and

60 WHEREAS, dealers are nominated by the executives of state and
61 metro dealer associations around the country. A panel of faculty
62 members from the Tauber Institute for Global Operations at the
63 University of Michigan will select one finalist from each of the
64 four NADA regions and one National Dealer of the Year. Three
65 finalists will receive an additional \$5,000.00 for their favorite
66 charities, and the winner will receive an additional \$10,000.00 to
67 give to charity, donated by Ally. In its eleventh year as
68 exclusive sponsor, Ally also will recognize dealer nominees and



69 their community efforts by contributing \$1,000.00 to each
70 nominee's 501(c)3 charity of choice. Nominees will also be
71 recognized on AllyDealerHeroes.com, which highlights the
72 philanthropic contributions and achievements of *TIME* Dealer of the
73 Year nominees; and

74 WHEREAS, Griffis was nominated for the *TIME* Dealer of the
75 Year Award by the Mississippi Automobile Dealers Association, and
76 it is with great pride that we join the automobile industry in
77 recognizing this Mississippi businessman who has brought honor to
78 his family, his business, his community and to the State of
79 Mississippi:

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
81 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
82 we do hereby commend and congratulate Philadelphia, Mississippi,
83 Automobile Dealer Bill Griffis upon his nomination for the
84 prestigious 2022 *TIME* Dealer of the Year Award recognizing his
85 industry accomplishments and community service and extend to him
86 and his family our best wishes for future success.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
88 Bill Griffis, forwarded to the Mississippi Automobile Dealers
89 Association and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

