

By: Senator(s) Chism, Barnett, Branning,
Frazier, Jackson (11th), Kirby, McLendon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 542

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF FORMER
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER ZACK STEWART AND
3 THANKING HIM FOR HIS OUTSTANDING RECORD OF EFFECTIVE AND DEDICATED
4 SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, we join the public highway construction industry and
6 the citizens of North Mississippi in recognizing the legacy and
7 effective leadership of former Northern District Transportation
8 Commissioner Zack Stewart; and

9 WHEREAS, Zack Stewart was elected Transportation Commissioner
10 in 1983 and completed his fifth term as Commissioner for the
11 Northern District in 2003; and

12 WHEREAS, Zack Stewart was viewed by colleagues in public
13 highway construction around America with a measure of respect; he
14 was past Chairman of the American Association of State Highway and
15 Transportation Officials (AASHTO); and

16 WHEREAS, he was born on June 27, 1937, in Dumas, Tippah
17 County, Mississippi and grew up in Pontotoc County's Troy
18 Community. Zack attended Pontotoc County schools, Itawamba
19 Community College in Fulton and Mississippi State University. He



20 served in the Marine Corps from 1958 to 1961. While in the Marine
21 Corps, Mr. Stewart completed extension work from East Carolina and
22 North Carolina State Universities; and

23 WHEREAS, Zack served as an Engineer with WCBI-TV in Columbus
24 and was a Senior Customer Engineer for IBM Corporation. He was
25 appointed in 1972 to head the Mississippi Division of Appalachian
26 Development and was the owner of Stewart Construction Company; and

27 WHEREAS, while serving in office, Commissioner Stewart
28 considered his most outstanding accomplishments as Commissioner to
29 be:

30 • Instrumental in the preparation, passage and
31 implementation of the 1987 Four-Lane Highway Program. He was one
32 of the architects of the \$1.6-billion-dollar 1987 Highway Program,
33 which gradually allowed for the funding of over 1,000 miles of
34 four-lane highways statewide. The first project was the four-lane
35 expansion of Highway 72. He was also involved in the four-laning
36 of Highway 178, which became Highway 78 and is now Interstate 22
37 from Memphis to Birmingham;

38 • The establishment of the Mississippi Department of
39 Transportation, including the Intermodal Aspect and Weight
40 Enforcement responsibilities;

41 • The construction of the MDOT Administration Building in
42 Jackson, Mississippi;

43 • The implementation of allowing prisoners to pick up litter
44 on highways;



45 • Past Chairman of the Three Rivers Planning and Development
46 District Board of Directors during the development of the
47 Tanglefoot Trail, Mississippi's longest Rails-to-Trails
48 conversion;

49 • Volunteers with the Union County Heritage Museum in New
50 Albany in all facets of construction, repair and outdoor design;

51 • Instrumental in procuring the now-existing four-lane
52 bridge across the Tallahatchie River in New Albany. The original
53 design called for fewer lanes; however, the knowledge and
54 experience of Zack's past career propelled him to express his
55 concern about future infrastructure, and his compelling argument
56 resulted in a change of plans. The easier flow of traffic in
57 downtown New Albany is a direct result of Zack's influence, and
58 the steel structure with its hometown look is a completion of the
59 vision of the man who had the foresight to consider the growing
60 needs of his beloved Fair and Friendly City; and

61 WHEREAS, Zack is married to the former Betty Joe Jagers of
62 the Furrs Community in Pontotoc; they have four children and seven
63 grandchildren; the Stewarts are members of Hillcrest Baptist
64 Church in New Albany; and

65 WHEREAS, it is because of the contributions that Zack Stewart
66 has made to the State of Mississippi and continues to make to New
67 Albany, that the Legislature has named the Highway 178/Bankhead
68 Street Bridge, the "Zack Stewart Bridge"; and



69 WHEREAS, the members of the Legislature wish to express
70 sincere appreciation to Commissioner Stewart for his many
71 outstanding accomplishments and record of dedicated public
72 service:

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
74 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
75 we do hereby commend our friend Zack Stewart for all that he has
76 meant to the highway program in the State of Mississippi and his
77 unmatched contributions to the people of the State of Mississippi
78 following his retirement from public office, and we extend to him
79 and his family the best wishes of the Senate on their future
80 endeavors.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
82 Commissioner Stewart and his family and be made available to the
83 Capitol Press Corps.

