

By: Senator(s) Boyd, Bryan, Butler (38th),  
Jackson (11th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 42

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING JUDICIAL CAREER AND  
2 MILITARY SERVICE OF HONORABLE NORMAN L. GILLESPIE OF OXFORD,  
3 MISSISSIPPI, AND EXTENDING THE SYMPATHY OF THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE  
4 TO HIS SURVIVING FAMILY ON HIS PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, we join the judicial community of the State of  
6 Mississippi in mourning the passing of Honorable Norman L.  
7 Gillespie who passed away on August 29, 2021, in Oxford,  
8 Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, Norman L. Gillespie was born in Bruce, Mississippi,  
10 on August 10, 1934. He was the youngest child of A.L. Gillespie  
11 and Lora Overby Gillespie. Norman graduated from New Albany High  
12 School in 1952. After high school, Norman attended and graduated  
13 from the University of Mississippi in May of 1956, earning his  
14 Bachelor of Arts Degree; and

15 WHEREAS, he was then commissioned in the Military  
16 Intelligence Corps as a U.S. Army Second Lieutenant during the  
17 same month. Norman served in the Counter Intelligence Corps in  
18 Europe from April of 1957 until September of 1958. He was  
19 discharged from the U.S. Army as a First Lieutenant; and



20 WHEREAS, Norman next attended law school at the University of  
21 Mississippi from 1958-1961 and received his J.D. Degree in May of  
22 1961. While in law school, Norman served as President of his  
23 class during his third year; and

24 WHEREAS, after graduation, he practiced law in New Albany,  
25 Mississippi, from June of 1961 until November of 1968. Norman  
26 served as County Prosecuting Attorney of Union County,  
27 Mississippi, from 1964 until 1968; and

28 WHEREAS, in November of 1968, Norman began serving as an  
29 Assistant U.S. Attorney in Oxford, Mississippi. He held that  
30 position until January of 1974; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1974, he was appointed as the U.S. District Court  
32 Clerk for the Northern District of Mississippi. He held that  
33 position until 1998; and

34 WHEREAS, from 1980-1996, Norman also served as a part-time  
35 U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.  
36 In 1998, Norman retired from the Federal Court and ran for  
37 Chancery Judge; and

38 WHEREAS, he served as Chancellor for the 18th Judicial  
39 District, State of Mississippi from 1999-2003; and

40 WHEREAS, Norman continued to serve for some period of time as  
41 a Special Chancellor, appointed by the Chief Justice of the  
42 Mississippi Supreme Court; and

43 WHEREAS, Norman was a faithful member of the First Baptist  
44 Church of Oxford, Mississippi, for decades. He served for many



45 years as a Deacon and greatly enjoyed his church family. Of all  
46 of his accomplishments, Norman was most proud of his family. He  
47 is survived by his wife of over 56 years, Johnnie Vance Gillespie  
48 of Oxford, Mississippi; sons, Van Gillespie (Angie) and John  
49 Gillespie (Alicia); grandchildren, Mary Beth, Emma Cate, Dylan,  
50 Madison and Trae; and

51 WHEREAS, in honor of Mr. Gillespie's service to our country,  
52 the flag of the United States Army was flown at Waller Funeral  
53 Home; and

54 WHEREAS, Norman Gillespie served as a leader and mentor and  
55 consistently lectured on the professional standards of the  
56 practice, including ethics, integrity, civility, courtesy and  
57 adherence to the Golden Rule. His life honored both The  
58 Mississippi Bar and this Great State that he loved and served:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
60 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the outstanding judicial  
61 career and military service of Honorable Norman L. Gillespie of  
62 Oxford, Mississippi, and extend the sympathy of the Mississippi  
63 Senate to his surviving family on his passing.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
65 the surviving family of Honorable Norman L. Gillespie, forwarded  
66 to The Mississippi Bar and the Mississippi Supreme Court, and made  
67 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

