

By: Representative McGee

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 38

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE STELLAR CAREER OF DISTINGUISHED  
2 PUBLIC SERVICE OF SOUTHERN DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION COMMISSIONER,  
3 FORMER STATE SENATOR, FORMER MISSISSIPPI REPRESENTATIVE AND  
4 VIETNAM VETERAN, THE HONORABLE THOMAS EDWARD (TOM) KING, JR., AND  
5 CONGRATULATING HIM UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT.

6 WHEREAS, after 31 years of elected public service, 19 of  
7 which were shared in dual roles within the Mississippi  
8 Legislation, initially as a member of the House of Representatives  
9 after being elected in 1993, before his subsequent election to the  
10 Mississippi Senate in 2000, and the remaining and most recent 12  
11 years as the Southern District Transportation Commissioner for the  
12 Mississippi Department of Transportation since his 2012 election,  
13 the Honorable Thomas Edward (Tom) King, Jr., current chair of the  
14 commission, announced his planned entry into the sacred institute  
15 of retirement upon the conclusion of his current term; and

16 WHEREAS, a Hattiesburg native, Commissioner King graduated  
17 from Petal High School before becoming a "Golden Eagle" and proud  
18 alum of the University of Southern Mississippi in 1973, holding a  
19 bachelor of science degree; and



20           WHEREAS, with an intrepid allegiance to God and country, a  
21 young King donned the garbs of patriotism as a member of the  
22 United States Air Force, serving in the Vietnam War as an air  
23 policeman, a loyalty that extended well beyond his military  
24 career, as evidenced by his membership with the Rotary Club, the  
25 American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW); and

26           WHEREAS, Commissioner King's record of elected public  
27 service, as both a state legislator and transportation  
28 commissioner are adorned with an exhaustive list of significant  
29 accomplishments which have proved beneficial through their  
30 meaningful impacts upon the State of Mississippi, including:  
31 timely and significant recognitions of Mississippians who have  
32 made substantial contributions to highlight Mississippi's greatest  
33 talents, attributes and resources; authoring a \$300 million bond  
34 bill for highway and bridges; the promotion of safety for cyclists  
35 with the passage of the "John Paul Frerer Bicycle Act"; and the  
36 creation of the Mississippi Wireless Communications Commission;  
37 and

38           WHEREAS, for his unwavering commitment to excellence through  
39 service, Commissioner King's selflessness has not gone unnoticed,  
40 and has been acknowledged with numerous awards and honors,  
41 including: the 2022 Friendship Oak Award from the University of  
42 Southern Mississippi; the 2011 Mississippi Municipal League  
43 Legislator of the Year; the 2010 Hattiesburg's Veteran of the  
44 Year; the American Legion Meritorious Service Award recipient in



45 2007; and Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Legislator of the  
46 Year in 2002; and

47 WHEREAS, a servant-leader who has exemplified the finest  
48 qualities of deference, humility, compromise and inclusivity,  
49 Commissioner King has been the recipient of the steadfast love and  
50 support of his wife, Susan Lynn Patterson King, along with his two  
51 sons, Clay and Chad, and two grandchildren, whom he considers his  
52 greatest assets and most cherished possessions; and

53 WHEREAS, leaving behind a legacy of accomplishments as a  
54 gentleman, statesman, scholar and servant whose unmatched  
55 commitment to leadership, sound judgment and fairness have  
56 established a benchmark of excellence to his credit and reputation  
57 as a husband, father, businessman, officer, citizen, statesman and  
58 leader in the State of Mississippi; and

59 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
60 commend the stellar service of public servants of Commissioner  
61 King's astute caliber, whose reputation as an exceptional steward  
62 of public trust precedes him and has established him as an  
63 audacious ambassador for the state:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
65 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
66 commend the stellar career of distinguished public service of  
67 Southern District Transportation Commissioner, former State  
68 Senator, former Mississippi Representative and Vietnam Veteran,  
69 the Honorable Thomas Edward (Tom) King, Jr., congratulate him upon



70 the occasion of his retirement, and extend best wishes for good  
71 health and success in the lighter years ahead.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
73 furnished to the Honorable Commissioner Thomas Edward (Tom) King,  
74 Jr., and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

