

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.

