

By: Senator(s) DeLano, Carter, Thompson,  
Seymour, England, DeBar, Wiggins, Hopson,  
Barnett, Boyd, Butler (38th), McCaughn,  
McDaniel, Michel, Moran

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 553

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE PASSING AND EXTENDING  
2 THE DEEP AND HEARTFELT SYMPATHY OF THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO  
3 THE SURVIVING FAMILY OF ALBEN N. (AL) HOPKINS, SR., MAJOR GENERAL,  
4 MSARNG (RET.) AND COMMENDING HIS SERVICE AS MISSISSIPPI GAMING  
5 COMMISSION CHAIR, VETERAN GULFPORT ATTORNEY AND CIVIC LEADER.

6 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of the  
7 Chairman of the Mississippi Gaming Commission Alben N. (Al)  
8 Hopkins, Sr., Major General, MSARNG (Ret.) who passed away on  
9 February 12, 2023. He was born in Ripley, Mississippi, on  
10 February 14, 1941, and was in his third term on the Mississippi  
11 Gaming Commission after being reconfirmed in 2022 by the  
12 Mississippi Senate; and

13 WHEREAS, Hopkins chaired the commission during a time of  
14 significant change for the gambling industry, with many states  
15 easing rules on when and where gambling can take place and  
16 legalizing sports betting; and

17 WHEREAS, a former Assistant Adjutant General of the  
18 Mississippi National Guard, Hopkins retired from the military with  
19 the rank of Major General. He founded his own law firm, Hopkins,



20 Barvié & Hopkins, in 1977 in Gulfport and served for 13 years as  
21 Chief Judge of the Court of Military Appeals; and

22 WHEREAS, Al Hopkins attended Delta State University on a  
23 basketball scholarship where he was a student leader and also  
24 played on the baseball team under Bo Ferris, whom he always  
25 admired. Alben was a member of the "M" Club among numerous other  
26 organizations which included the Debate Team, Omicron Delta Kappa,  
27 Pi Gamma Nu, Pi Kappa Delta Honor Societies, and the Kappa Alpha  
28 Order Fraternity. He was chosen as Mr. Delta State and later  
29 Alumnus of the Year. Alben established a scholarship at Delta  
30 State University for qualifying high school students from Walnut,  
31 Mississippi, and Tippah County to allow them an opportunity to get  
32 a higher education. He was a 1963 graduate of Delta State  
33 University, receiving bachelor's degrees in History and English.  
34 In 1965, he received his juris doctorate from the University of  
35 Mississippi School of Law. He later received a bachelor's degree  
36 in Biblical Studies from William Carey University; and

37 WHEREAS, General Hopkins was a Major General in the  
38 Mississippi National Guard who retired effective March 5, 1996.  
39 General Hopkins entered military service in 1965 as an enlisted  
40 man in the 31st Infantry Division. In 1970, he received a direct  
41 commission to Captain. He was a graduate of the Judges Advocate  
42 General's Career Course and General Staff School of the United  
43 States Army, University of Virginia School of Law,  
44 Charlottesville, Virginia. He served as Staff Judge Advocate for



45 Mississippi Emergency Operations Headquarters; Command and Control  
46 Headquarters; Det. I STARC and Special Staff Judge Advocate to the  
47 Adjutant General of the State of Mississippi. General Hopkins  
48 served the last four years of his service as the Assistant  
49 Adjutant General of the State of Mississippi. He was promoted to  
50 Brigadier General with federal recognition effective March 11,  
51 1993. In the position of Assistant Adjutant General (1992-1996),  
52 General Hopkins served in many additional capacities; and

53 WHEREAS, Hopkins was a well-known member of many  
54 organizations on the Gulf Coast, including Girl Scouts of Gulf  
55 Pines Council, the Spanish Trail Council of the Boy Scouts of  
56 America, the Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce and the Harrison  
57 County Tourism Commission, of which he was a Past President; and

58 WHEREAS, his professional associations and societies include:

- 59 • Hinds County Bar Association 1965-1970;
- 60 • Harrison County Bar Association 1970-present;
- 61 • Mississippi Bar Association 1965-present;  
62       Judicial Selection Committee 1978-1979;  
63       Judicial Evaluation Committee 1993-1994;
- 64 • American Bar Association 1965-present;  
65       Member Trial, Product Liability Section;
- 66 • Federal Bar Association 1971-present (V.P. 1982-1984);
- 67 • Bar Association of the Fifth Federal Circuit 1987-present;  
68       Agenda Committee, Fifth Circuit Judicial Conference  
69 1989;



70                   Transportation Committee, Fifth Circuit Judicial  
71 Conference 1996-1997;  
72           • The Defense Research Institute (1974-present);  
73           Area Chairman 1977-1979;  
74           • Mississippi Defense Lawyers Association (1965-present);  
75           Publications Committee 1974;  
76           Judicial Administration and Liaison Committee 1980;  
77           • Federation of Insurance & Corporate Counsel 1974-2005;  
78           • Fellow Mississippi Bar Foundation (1976-present);  
79           • Lamar Order (1984-present);  
80           • American Trial Lawyers Association (1973-present);  
81           Recognized by the National College of Advocacy as an  
82 Advocate (2001);  
83           • International Association of Defense Counsel  
84 (1977-present);  
85           • Southeastern Admiralty Association (Port Attorney  
86 1983-1985);  
87           • Transportation Lawyers Association;  
88           • Association of the United States Army (Life Member);  
89           • The National Guard Association of the United States  
90 (1965-present);  
91           • The National Guard Association of Mississippi  
92 (1965-present); and  
93           WHEREAS, his honors and organizations:



94           • In 1967, Mr. Hopkins served as President of the Delta  
95 State University Greater Jackson Area Association. He was a  
96 participant in the "Program for Excellence" at Delta State  
97 University. Mr. Hopkins served as President of Delta State Alumni  
98 Association for the State of Mississippi (1968-1969), and on the  
99 Board of Directors of Delta State University Foundation (1968-1988  
100 and 1991-1995). He served as President of the Foundation in 1995.  
101 In 1991, he was selected as Alumnus of the Year at Delta State  
102 University for his leadership, achievement and devotion to his  
103 chosen field of endeavor, and to Delta State University;

104           • In 1970, he was chosen to appear in *Outstanding Young Men*  
105 *of America* and listed in *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*;

106           • In 1971, he was elected to the Executive Counsel of  
107 Inter-Alumni Council for Institute of Higher Learning for the  
108 State of Mississippi and served as Vice Chairman (1971-1972) and  
109 Chairman 1972-1973);

110           • In 1990, Kappa Alpha Order, Delta Beta Chapter, dedicated  
111 *Old South 1990* to Mr. Hopkins;

112           • In 1995, he was chosen King d'Iberville, King of All Mardi  
113 Gras on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, Gulf Coast Carnival  
114 Association. He served on the Board of Directors for the Gulf  
115 Coast Carnival Association;

116           • In 2003, he was the first recipient of the Delta State  
117 University Lifetime Achievement Award;



118           • He is a 32nd Degree Mason and a member of the York Rite,  
119 and Shrine. Mr. Hopkins is a member of the Retired Officers  
120 Association; Reserve Officers Association; Gulf Coast Chamber of  
121 Commerce; the American Legion; Gulfport Yacht Club; Windance  
122 Country Club; Great Southern Club and Gulfport Rotary Club; and

123           WHEREAS, Mr. Hopkins also served in the following community,  
124 state and national capacities:

125           • Board of Directors, Vice President, Gulfport Jaycees  
126 (1971-1973);

127           • Board of Directors, USO (1974-1975);

128           • Board of Directors, Gulf Pines Girl Scout Council  
129 (1974-present); awarded the Thanks Badge by the Girl Scouts of  
130 America (1982); awarded Lifetime Membership Status by the Girl  
131 Scouts of America; Golden Ruler Award; and President's Cabinet  
132 (1990-present);

133           • Board of Directors, United Way, Harrison County  
134 (1980-1982);

135           • American Heart Association, Mississippi Affiliate, Board  
136 of Directors, Chairman of Board (1985-1986); Assistant State Heart  
137 Chairman (1983); State Heart Fund Chairman (1984); Planned Giving  
138 Committee Chairman (1980-1984); District Director; awarded the  
139 Gold Award of American Heart Association (1981); awarded the  
140 Silver Award for Distinguished Service (1986);

141           • Mississippi National Guard Association (1965 to present);

142           • Development Board, William Carey College (1985-1989);



- 143           • Foundation Board, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
144 (1987-2003);
- 145           • Life Member, Mississippi Historical Society;
- 146           • Board of Deacons, Finance Committee, Chairman of Policy  
147 Committee, Sunday School Teacher, First Baptist Church of  
148 Gulfport, Mississippi;
- 149           • Board of Directors and President of the Metropolitan  
150 Dinner Club (1988-1989);
- 151           • Board of Directors, 31st Infantry "Dixie" Division Society  
152 (1992-1996) (Life Member);
- 153           • 31st Infantry "Dixie" Division Association, Inc., National  
154 President (1997-1998); 1st Vice President (1996-1997);
- 155           • Board of Directors, Mississippi Committee for the  
156 Prevention of Child Abuse (1993-1999);
- 157           • Armed Forces Museum Foundation, Inc.; Charter Member Board  
158 of Directors 2002-2005;
- 159           • Harrison County Tourism Commission:  
160                Commissioner 1994-present;  
161                President 2002-2005;
- 162           • Mississippi State Chairman, World War II Commemoration  
163 Committee (1993-1995);
- 164           • Coastal Conservation Association (1995-present);
- 165           • *Who's Who in Coast Business* (1995);
- 166           • *Marquis Who's Who in America* (1996-present);
- 167           • Gulf Coast Can-rival Association, King d'Iberville (1995);



168 Board of Directors (1995-present);

169 • District Commissioner, Spanish Trail District, Boy Scouts  
170 of America (1997-1998);

171 • Executive Council, Spanish Trail District, Boy Scouts of  
172 America (1998-2005);

173 • Mississippi Coast Crime Commission (1997-present);

174 • Life Member, National Rifle Association;

175 • Sponsor, Ducks Unlimited;

176 • Harrison County Republican Executive Committee  
177 (1972-present);

178 • United Republican Fund;

179 • Wildlife Mississippi, Charter Member (1998-present);

180 • Sponsoring Association Member, National Association of  
181 Charter Boat Operators (1995-2000);

182 • DAR President General's Advisory Board (1998-2002);

183 • Coast Centurion Association (Gulf Coast Chamber); and

184 WHEREAS, an active member of First Baptist Church of  
185 Gulfport, Mississippi, Hopkins served as a Deacon and taught  
186 Sunday School. He was preceded in death by his father, Lloyd  
187 Carter Hopkins; his mother, Reba Norris Hopkins; his brother,  
188 Lloyd Gerald Hopkins; and his daughter, Ashley Anne Hopkins. Al  
189 is survived by his grade school sweetheart, his wife of 59 years,  
190 Johna Ruth Hopkins; his son, Norris Hopkins (Jodie); his grandson,  
191 Carter Houston Hopkins; his sister, Lana Moss (Harvey); his nieces  
192 and nephews; and his loyal four-legged companion, Clarence; and





193           WHEREAS, we pay tribute and cherish fondly the memory of this  
194 most public-spirited citizen of Mississippi whose enormous civic  
195 energy is an example to all in our state. He will be missed:

196           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
197 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
198 we do hereby mourn the passing and extend the deep and heartfelt  
199 sympathy of the Mississippi Legislature to the surviving family of  
200 Alben N. (Al) Hopkins, Sr., Major General, MSARNG (Retired) and  
201 commend his service as Mississippi Gaming Commission Chair,  
202 Veteran Gulfport Attorney and Civic Leader.

203           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
204 the surviving family of General Hopkins, forwarded to the  
205 Mississippi Gaming Commission, and made available to the Capitol  
206 Press Corps.

