

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.

