

By: Senator(s) Parker, Barnett, Blackwell,
Butler (38th), Frazier, Horhn, McDaniel,
Seymour

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 24

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING LAW ENFORCEMENT
2 TRAINING CAREER AND MILITARY SERVICE OF LT. COLONEL THOMAS TUGGLE
3 ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI HIGHWAY
4 PATROL AND COMMENDING HIS LEGACY OF PUBLIC SERVICE.

5 WHEREAS, "You are not a leader until you have produced
6 another leader who can produce another leader. True greatness is
7 not where we are today, but where we intend to be tomorrow," says
8 Lt. Colonel Thomas Tuggle, who is retiring from a 30-year
9 outstanding career in law enforcement. "If we stop believing in
10 today's youth, tomorrow has no future," Colonel Tuggle maintains;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Thomas Tuggle is a Major with the Mississippi
13 Highway Patrol. He is the Assistant Director of the Mississippi
14 Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy, the largest law
15 enforcement training facility in the state. His assignments have
16 included Troop E Enforcement Division, MHP Honor Guard, MHP
17 Recruiter, and Senior Instructor for Basic Law Enforcement
18 Training. He served as the Mississippi Department of Public
19 Safety's Executive Officer under two commissioners; and



20 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Tuggle is a graduate of the FBI
21 Training Academy at Quantico and served as the first President in
22 his class at the National Academy from Mississippi; and

23 WHEREAS, Lt. Colonel Tuggle's career spans 30 years, starting
24 as a Patrolman for the Hernando Police Department (January 1992),
25 and includes the following career accomplishments:

- 26 • Graduated as Class President of his Basic Training Class;
- 27 • Rose to the rank of Sergeant with Hernando Police
28 Department and, after four years, joined MHP (1996);
- 29 • Graduated from Trooper School with Honors (Top Shooter);
- 30 • Led District Three (Batesville) in Enforcement in 1997 and
31 1999;
- 32 • Transferred full time to the Mississippi Law Enforcement
33 Officers Training Academy in 2000;
- 34 • For 22 years, has been responsible for the training of
35 over 7000 of Mississippi's entry-level municipal, county and
36 university law enforcement officers;
- 37 • MLEOTA became one of the most respected training academies
38 in the country;
- 39 • Represented Mississippi on a national level 12 times
40 participating and coaching MHP's Fitness Team. They have won 12
41 National Championships, and the Mississippi Senate and House of
42 Representatives have passed five Joint Resolutions recognizing
43 Thomas' efforts in changing the perception of the Mississippi Law
44 Enforcement community;



- 45 • Attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation National
46 Academy for the Top 1% of law enforcement executives. In the
47 83-year history of the prestigious institution, the only
48 Mississippian to graduate with the "Triple Crown": Section
49 Leader/Distinguished Graduate/President of a Session;
- 50 • Led the Mississippi law enforcement community to become a
51 fixture for excellence under his instruction;
- 52 • Was selected in 2020 as the State Law Enforcement Officer
53 of the Year for Mississippi;
- 54 • Served as MDPS Executive Officer under two commissioners;
55 and

56 WHEREAS, Colonel Tuggle joined the United States Marine Corps
57 after high school, and wife, Linda, went to college. After
58 completing boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina, Tuggle was
59 sent on a four-month detachment to Camp Pendleton in Twentynine
60 Palms, California, where he completed on-the-job training in
61 communications. After graduating at the top of his class at the
62 Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) school, he was promoted to
63 Lance Corporal. Two months later, Tuggle got orders to go to
64 Hawaii. Before he checked out of his unit in California, he
65 received the highest proficiency and conduct marks (or "pros and
66 cons") possible, 5.0's across the board. While in Hawaii, Tuggle
67 was named Lance Corporal of the quarter twice. Then he was
68 promoted to Corporal when he was only 19. In January 1991,
69 Tuggle's artillery unit was sent to Kuwait to help defeat Saddam



70 Hussein's forces in the Gulf War. After a weeks-long air
71 campaign, American troops prepared to enter Kuwait. Tuggle was
72 part of the advance party. After securing Kuwait International
73 Airport, "We drove down the Highway of Death (between Kuwait and
74 Iraq). Anyone who brags about going to combat never experienced
75 it," Tuggle says; and

76 WHEREAS, in 1995, Tuggle decided to join the Mississippi
77 Highway Patrol (MHP) and went back to MLEOTA for MHP training. In
78 2000, then-MLEOTA Director Pat Cronin drove up to Hernando to ask
79 Tuggle to come work for him. Tuggle became the Coordinator for
80 Basic Law Enforcement Training at MLEOTA; and

81 WHEREAS, his wife, Linda, is the Clinical Director of the
82 Labor and Delivery Unit for Methodist Olive Branch Hospital. The
83 couple has one daughter, Courtney, who is his greatest source of
84 pride; and

85 WHEREAS, Mississippi's law enforcement is the best in the
86 nation. Time and time again, these brave men and women, including
87 Lt. Colonel Thomas Tuggle, answer the call to protect and serve,
88 putting their lives on the line to protect ours, and it is with
89 great pride that we commend the career of this Mississippian who
90 brings honor to his unit, his family and to the State of
91 Mississippi:

92 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
93 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the outstanding law
94 enforcement training career and military service of Lt. Colonel



95 Thomas Tuggle on the occasion of his retirement from the
96 Mississippi Highway Patrol and commend his legacy of public
97 service, and extend to Colonel Tuggle and his family our best
98 wishes for future success.

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
100 Lt. Colonel Thomas Tuggle, forwarded to the Governor and
101 Commissioner of Public Safety Sean Tindall, and made available to
102 the Capitol Press Corps.

