

By: Senator(s) Williams, Boyd, England

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 65

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ROCKFORD
2 (ROCKY) VAUGHAN OF ACKERMAN, MISSISSIPPI, IN DESIGNING THE NEW
3 MISSISSIPPI STATE FLAG.

4 WHEREAS, we join the citizens of Central Mississippi and the
5 entire state in honoring the efforts of a resident who was
6 instrumental in the design of our new Mississippi State Flag; and

7 WHEREAS, Rockford (Rocky) Wayne Vaughan was born in Eupora,
8 Mississippi, in June 1977. After moving to Ackerman, Mississippi,
9 at age four, with his parents, Gary and Beverly Vaughan, and
10 younger brother Quint, Rocky became very active in church, school
11 sports, city league sports, as well as choral music, all while
12 gaining interest in the arts; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1996, after graduating high school, Rocky
14 attended Holmes Community College, where he earned a scholarship
15 to Mississippi State University, studying graphic design. While
16 developing his skills, his designs gained him award-winning titles
17 on both state and national levels. In 2003, musical aspirations



18 took Rocky to Nashville where he found a platform for performing
19 on Lower Broadway for the next seven years; and

20 WHEREAS, after returning home to Mississippi with his new
21 family, Rocky continued to produce designs for various brands such
22 as Dog Pound Printing, Southern Belle, Black Sporting, and he
23 became the lead designer for the lifestyle brand Coastal Waters
24 Supply Company; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2013, inspired by a news story regarding the
26 history of the Mississippi flag, Rocky became determined to create
27 a less controversial state flag. This early inspiration set in
28 motion the process for Rocky to submit a flag design when Governor
29 Tate Reeves created a flag commission in June 2020. On November
30 3, 2020, the voters of Mississippi overwhelmingly voted in favor
31 of Rocky's design as the new flag for the State of Mississippi.
32 Under House Bill No. 1 (2021 Regular Session) the Legislature
33 ratified the new design as the official flag of the State of
34 Mississippi on January 6, 2021, and the bill was approved by the
35 Governor on January 11, 2021; and

36 WHEREAS, the flag features the State Flower, a Magnolia
37 Blossom, in the center of a dark blue stripe surrounded by gold
38 and red vertical stripes. The magnolia sits in the middle of a
39 circle of 20 white stars with a gold star at the top that
40 represents the Native American tribes who lived in Mississippi.
41 The twenty white stars represent Mississippi's status as the 20th



42 state to enter the union. At the bottom of the circle of stars
43 are the words, "In God We Trust"; and

44 WHEREAS, Rocky currently resides in Ackerman, Mississippi,
45 with his wife Keland and their son Bentley. The Vaughans own and
46 operate Deep South Confection and Design. They have four sons:
47 Ryder, Brody, Ben and Bentley; and

48 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we acknowledge the
49 background of our new state flag and the input of a young
50 Mississippian into its design:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
52 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the contributions of
53 Rockford (Rocky) Vaughan of Ackerman, Mississippi, in designing
54 the new Mississippi State Flag, and extend the best wishes of the
55 Mississippi Senate to this Mississippi citizen for future positive
56 community involvement.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
58 Rocky Vaughan and his family, forwarded to the Choctaw County
59 Economic Development District and be made available to the Capitol
60 Press Corps.

