

By: Senator(s) McCaughn, McMahan, Williams, To: Rules
Berry, Blackwell, Blount, Boyd, Chism, DeBar,
England, Frazier, Ladner, McLendon, Michel,
Norwood, Parker, Simmons (12th), Sparks,
Suber, Thomas, Thompson, Whaley

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 114

1 A RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE DEDICATED AND PROFESSIONAL
2 SERVICE AND COMMENDING THE PILOT AND CREW OF THE MEDICAL
3 HELICOPTER WHO WERE LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY IN A CRASH IN MADISON
4 COUNTY AFTER TRANSPORTING A PATIENT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
5 MISSISSIPPI MEDICAL CENTER ON MARCH 10, 2025.

6 WHEREAS, it is with extreme sadness that we join the entire
7 Medical Center family in mourning the loss of a pilot and two
8 hospital employees in a medical helicopter crash in Madison County
9 while returning to Columbus after transporting a patient to the
10 University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson on March 10,
11 2025; and

12 WHEREAS, the three crew members were aboard Columbus-based
13 AirCare3, an emergency medical helicopter, which is a hybrid
14 relationship between UMMC and Med-Trans Corporation, with UMMC
15 providing the clinical teams and Med-Trans providing the pilots
16 and aircraft operations; and

17 WHEREAS, according to UMMC officials, this was the first
18 crash in the 29 years that the AirCare emergency services have
19 been operational; and



20 WHEREAS, UMMC officials shared the identities of all three
21 victims killed in the medical helicopter crash in Madison County:

22 • Dustin Pope, 35, of Philadelphia, was a Base Supervisor
23 for AirCare in Columbus and a flight nurse. Pope was also a
24 member of Mossy Oak Properties Bottomland Real Estate. The
25 *Neshoba Democrat* reported Pope leaves behind a wife and three
26 young children;

27 • Jakob Kindt, 37, of Tupelo, was a Critical Care Paramedic.
28 Kindt leaves behind a spouse and family. Officials said Kindt and
29 Pope had both started working for UMMC on August 14, 2017;

30 • Cal Wesolowski, 62, of Starkville, was a Med-Trans
31 Corporation pilot. Med-Trans issued a Tuesday morning statement
32 via Facebook stating, in part, the corporation is "heartbroken to
33 share that three AirCare crew members perished in an accident,
34 including our Med-Trans pilot..." The corporation did not release
35 the name of the pilot at the time of that posting; and

36 WHEREAS, a motorcade escorted the remains of the three
37 Mississippi medical helicopter crash victims from the Madison
38 County Coroner's Office to the State Crime Lab; and

39 WHEREAS, state leaders' comments on the helicopter crash:

40 • Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves stated, "The First Lady
41 and I are praying for the victims of today's helicopter crash in
42 Madison County. Please keep the victims' families and coworkers
43 in your prayers. It's a tragic reminder of the risks



44 Mississippi's first responders take every day to keep us safe.

45 Our state will never forget the sacrifice of these heroes";

46 • Mississippi's Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann stated,

47 "Please join Lynn and me in praying for the families of the

48 dedicated individuals who lost their lives in the tragic

49 helicopter crash in Madison County. Words cannot express the

50 weight of this loss or the profound gratitude we have for their

51 service in caring for Mississippi's patients";

52 • The Mississippi Department of Public Safety wrote: "We

53 continue to keep our neighbors, the AirCare Team and the

54 University of Mississippi Medical Center, and the families and

55 friends of those affected in our thoughts and prayers following

56 this tragedy. First responders dedicate their lives to protecting

57 and serving others, and we will always be grateful for their

58 sacrifices";

59 • LouAnn Woodward, UMMC's Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

60 said, "Our entire Medical Center family is heartbroken over this.

61 We also want to express our concern and sadness for the AirCare

62 Team. This is the crew that responds to emergencies across all of

63 the state. To see them today responding to one of their own, it's

64 very tragic"; and

65 WHEREAS, it is with great pride and humility that we

66 recognize the heroic action of these great Americans and

67 Mississippians. We should not pause and remember to thank first



68 responders, emergency medical personnel and their families only in
69 the wake of tragedy. We should do it every day:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
71 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby remember the dedicated and
72 professional service and commend the pilot and crew of the medical
73 helicopter who wre lost in the line of duty in a crash in Madison
74 County after transporting a patient to the University of
75 Mississippi Medical Center on March 10, 2025, and extend the
76 heartfelt sympathy of the Mississippi Senate to their surviving
77 families.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to
79 UMMC Vice Chancellor LouAnn Woodward for appropriate presentation
80 to the surviving family of these three victims, and made available
81 to the Capitol Press Corps.

