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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 587

Originated in Senate LizWeich Secretary

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE OF CHARLIE HORHN, LONGTIME DISTRICT DIRECTOR FOR UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN BENNIE G. THOMPSON.

WHEREAS, in 2013, Charlie Horhn, District Director for United States Congressman Bennie G. Thompson of the Second Congressional District of Mississippi, announced his retirement after 20 years of achievement and enormous civic energy in the public sector. Charlie was recognized by the United States House of Representatives as one of America's most dedicated public servants and one of Mississippi's strongest advocates; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Horhn was best known for his ability to organize, network and provide mediation and counseling advice throughout the community. As District Director for Congressman Thompson, Mr. Horhn provided staff assistance and constituent oversight for 23 counties; and

WHEREAS, the husband and father of five began his life in rural Holmes County on July 9, 1934. Charlie, the sixth of 10 children born to the union of Tommie and Emma Lee Horhn, grew up,

like many black Mississippians, during the depression era, understanding the value of hard work, from cotton chopping to pulpwood hauling. A major influence on his early development was his sister, Fannie, a schoolteacher, who instilled in him a desire for lifelong education. Married at a young age to the former Willistene Levy, Horhn traveled to Jackson seeking a better way of life as a factory worker. This proved to be a life-changing move in that it set the stage for a lifetime of union organizing, voter education and registration, and other grassroots organizing; and

WHEREAS, starting out as a metal polisher at Presto Manufacturing Company, Charlie's natural leadership skills eventually catapulted him to the Office of Local Union President. He became an expert in union arbitration and negotiation and sat at the bargaining table representing workers for numerous manufacturers. Horhn became involved in voter education/registration activities being carried out by the A. Philip Randolph Institute (APRI). After APRI established a presence in Mississippi, Charlie was soon elected President of the APRI serving Central Mississippi; eventually he would assume the Office of President of APRI's State Chapter. APRI in Mississippi has been recognized nationwide for its pivotal role in determining the outcome of elections with grassroots candidates. A lot of that credit goes to Charlie whose political savvy is well known throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, from 1990 to 1993, Charlie Horhn was selected for the position of Assistant to the President of the Mississippi AFL-CIO and Director of its Political Action Committee, which afforded him a statewide vantage point for improving employee and labor relations. There he impacted legislation, organized worker conferences, and helped build local membership. Charlie was appointed IBEW Delegate to the National AFL-CIO Convention from 1975 to 1986 and was elected as a delegate to each IBEW Convention and Mississippi AFL-CIO Convention from 1970 to 1986. Prior to that, Mr. Horhn coordinated a Displaced Worker Program for the Department of Health and Human Services and later served as Special Assistant to the Medicaid Division Director; and

WHEREAS, Charlie's civic service includes the Board of Directors, Community Improvement Corporation, for WLBT Television Station in 1978. He was appointed by Governor Bill Allain to serve on the State Council for Vocational Education in 1985. He served on the Board of Directors, Hinds County Human Resources Agency, and the United Way from 1975 to 1981. He served on the Hinds County Democratic Executive Committee from 1974 to the present day; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1993, Charlie embarked on another career. He became Campaign Manager for then Hinds County Supervisor Bennie Thompson, who was making a bid to become the second African-American in modern times to be elected to the United States Congress from Mississippi. He was a veteran of

numerous political campaigns, including the successful election of his son, John Horhn, to the Mississippi Senate. With Charlie Horhn's help, Supervisor Thompson was elected Congressman Thompson and Charlie was tapped to direct six field offices for the District, beginning yet another set of challenges for the son of sharecroppers from Holmes County; and

WHEREAS, when Charlie transferred his grassroots talents to the public sector, a gesture of compassion and brotherhood, the Mississippi Chapter of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute saluted their comrade for service to the organization which assured him a place among the people who have made a difference in Mississippi proclaiming as A. Phillip Randolph said, "A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest can enjoy the highest social, civil and economic rights that the biggest and most powerful possess"; and

WHEREAS, his pathway to success can be largely attributed to his steadfast devotion to and compassion for the people of the State of Mississippi; and it is with great pride that we commend this record of achievement and legacy of leadership and dedication by a wonderful example for public servants:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize the lifetime achievement and public service of Charlie Horhn, longtime civic leader and District Director for

United States Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, and extend our best wishes to Charlie and his family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to Charlie Horhn, transmitted to Congressman Bennie Thompson and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
March 7, 2014

Tate Reeves

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 14, 2014

Philip Gunn

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES