

Chapter No. 2137
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***SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 590***

Originated in Senate *[Signature]* Secretary

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 590

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO PAY TRIBUTE TO DELTA STATE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT DR. JOHN HILPERT ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AND THANK HIM FOR 10 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

WHEREAS, Delta State University President Dr. John M. Hilpert has announced his retirement after 10 years of distinguished service to the students, faculty and administration of this university and to the State of Mississippi, effective on April 12, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a Missouri native, John M. Hilpert began his service as 7th President of Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, on September 1, 2003. He accepted this position following 6 successful years as President of Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota. During his 35-year career in higher education administration, Dr. Hilpert received appointments from Mississippi's Governors to serve on the Council of Educational Technology (Governor Barbour) and the Board of the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area (Governor Bryant). He

served on the Boards of the Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce, the Delta Council, and the Gulf South Conference (NCAA Athletics). Dr. Hilpert became the longest-serving institutional Executive Officer among the group of 8 currently leading Mississippi's public universities. (Five individuals have served as Commissioner or Interim Commissioner during Dr. Hilpert's term. Twenty-five individuals have served the state's public universities as Chancellor, President or an interim President since 2003); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Hilpert set the tone for his Delta State presidency by asking at his inauguration that everyone on campus work toward creating the Best Regional University in America. During Hilpert's tenure, Delta State has become a summer institute site for Teach For America, one of 9 across the nation. The university has met budgetary and other organizational goals, and faculty leaders participate in institutional governance. The university's relationship with its community is strong, and the Delta State University Foundation has experienced fundraising success. Each year the campus community selects and celebrates a theme with special programs – examples, the Year of Health and Wellness, the Year of Delta Heritage, and the Year of the Student – and the institution's engagement with the region continues to grow. Most recently, Delta State became the first public university campus in Mississippi to adopt a tobacco-free policy and the university won a Best Practices Award for its efforts in

energy conservation, and won recognition from the Southern Regional Education Board as one of 15 public colleges and universities outperforming most similar institutions in promoting and maintaining a culture of student success; and

WHEREAS, others have recognized Dr. Hilpert's leadership skills. Notably, he served three terms as Chairman of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the regional accrediting body for more than 800 postsecondary institutions. He was elected President in 2008 of the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities. Between 2003 and 2011, he served as Board President for the Delta Health Alliance, a regional nonprofit corporation; and

WHEREAS, each month Dr. Hilpert writes a column that originates in Cleveland's hometown newspaper and is occasionally picked up by other dailies around the state. He has authored many pieces for scholarly and other publications over the years, and he is frequently invited to address groups on a variety of topics; and

WHEREAS, Hilpert's degrees are a Doctor of Philosophy from the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Michigan, a Master of Divinity Degree from Concordia Seminary in Missouri, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Concordia Senior College in Indiana. He also holds a two-year diploma from St. Paul's College in Missouri. At the University of Michigan, he won

the John S. Brubacher Award for scholarly excellence in the history of higher education; and

WHEREAS, John Hilpert and his wife Pat have been married since 1971. They have 3 sons: Joshua (attorney), Zachary (university faculty), and Adam (farmer); and two granddaughters, Julia and Abby. Pat is retired from a 27-year career as a registered nurse and nursing administrator. During the Hilperts' time in Mississippi, Pat has served as a member of the Editorial Board of the state's largest newspaper, *The Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson). In retirement, the Hilperts will split their time each year between homes in the Delta and in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the high esteem with which this Mississippi university leader is held by his peers and the honor which his accomplishments have brought to his university and to the State of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby pay tribute to Delta State University President John Hilpert on the occasion of his retirement and thank him for 10 years of distinguished service to his university and to the state of Mississippi.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to Dr. Hilpert and his family, forwarded to the Board of Trustees of

Institutions of Higher Learning, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
March 15, 2013



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 19, 2013



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES