

Supervisor **CONNIE M. ROCKCO** moved the adoption of the following Resolution:

A RESOLUTION OF THE HARRISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HONORING WILLIS H. LOTT, Ed.D., ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER A 40-YEAR EDUCATIONAL CAREER, AND 13 YEARS OF SERVICE AS THE PRESIDENT OF MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE, TO HIS COMMUNITY, TO THE CITIZENS OF HARRISON COUNTY, AND TO ALL OF SOUTH MISSISSIPPI.

WHEREAS, Dr. Willis H. Lott is married to the former Ethel Rae Myers. They are the proud parents of Shane and Stacey and grandparents of five grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Willis H. Lott, Ed.D., was named the 11th President of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) in 1998. The Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College is a ninety-eight year old multi-campus institution with eight locations serving 37,000 individuals in credit and non-credit programs in George, Harrison, Jackson, and Stone counties of South Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lott guided MGCCC on a path of strategic planning, spearheading campus master plans, and balancing college budgets during unprecedented cuts in state funding and loss of revenue while fulfilling the college mission by making a positive difference in people's lives every day; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of our state's worst natural disaster, Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Lott and MGCCC dealt with the reality of 3,000 students withdrawing from the college in a single day; the homes of nearly 200 employees destroyed or severely damaged, and the challenge of reopening the college's doors in 17 days. His untiring efforts in securing funds from the Mississippi Legislature and appealing to the U.S. Congressional Delegation helped college students and MGCCC continue growth and development; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lott received a special appointment to serve on the Mississippi Governor's Commission for Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal, which was responsible

for developing a blueprint for guiding the building and recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and surrounding areas.

WHEREAS, Dr. Lott also served on the Governor's special committee referred to as Momentum Mississippi which resulted in a strategic plan for economic development in the State of Mississippi, and he was appointed to the Steering Committee of Mississippi Momentum Wired, an initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lott's continues to exhibit his commitment to Harrison County, the City of Gulfport, the State of Mississippi, and the entire community as evidenced by his involvement as a member of the Gulf Coast Business Council which was formed to address social, economic, financial, and educational issues during a Post-Katrina environment; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lott has been recognized and received state, regional and national awards for his service, vision and leadership. He was the recipient of the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction presented by Phi Theta Kappa, State and National Educational Administrator of the Year, the Community College Alliance 2006 Leadership Award, and Regional Chief Executive Officer Award presented by the Association of Community College Trustees. Community recognition has included Citizen of the Year by the Stone County Economic Development Partnership, South Mississippi's Outstanding Community Leader, Class of 2005, and Leadership Stone County; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lott is past president of the Mississippi Association of Colleges and past chair of the Mississippi Humanities Council. Currently, he chairs the Federation of State Humanities Councils and is the president of the Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges. During his 40 year educational career, he has maintained numerous professional affiliations and has continued to participate in community and civic organizations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I. Upon adoption of this Resolution, the Harrison County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of the citizens of Harrison County, expresses congratulations to Dr. Willis H. Lott on his retirement as the 11th president of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, and a 40 year educational career, and sincere appreciation for his many years of dedicated service to his community, to the citizens of Harrison County, and the State of Mississippi.

SECTION II. A certified copy of this Resolution shall be spread upon the official minutes of Harrison County, there to remain as a testament to the dedication and service of Dr. Willis H. Lott to his profession, to the continued growth of MGCCC and its students, and to his community.

Supervisor **WILLIAM W. MARTIN** seconded the Motion to adopt the above and foregoing Resolution, whereupon the question was put to a vote with the following results:

Supervisor W. S. SWETMAN III voted	AYE
Supervisor KIM B. SAVANT voted	AYE
Supervisor MARLIN LADNER voted	(ABSENT & EXCUSED)
Supervisor WILLIAM MARTIN voted	AYE
Supervisor CONNIE ROCKCO voted	AYE

The majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Motion was declared carried, and the Resolution adopted on this the 9th day of May, 2011.