

**Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the  
Mississippi Coat-of-Arms  
August 21, 2000, 1:00 p.m.  
20<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Sillers Building**

Members present: Senator Terry Burton  
Senator Mike Chaney  
Senator Hillman Frazier  
Larry Fry  
Representative Steve Holland  
Fran Ivy  
Representative Wanda Jennings  
Don Kilgore  
Vanessa Long  
Lisa Milner  
Jean Moore  
Jack Reed  
John Tatum  
Dolphus Weary  
William Winter

Members absent: Representative Ed Blackmon  
J.L. Holloway

Others present: Governor Ronnie Musgrove  
Jayne Buttross, Office of the Governor  
Representative Erik Fleming  
Jim Giles  
Clay Moss  
Kelly Riley, Office of the Governor  
Dr. David Sansing  
Mrs. Elise Winter  
Eleanor Winter

Chairman William Winter called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and introduced Governor Ronnie Musgrove. Governor Musgrove thanked the members of the Commission for their service and reminded them of the Commission's purpose to recommend a design for the state flag and the coat-of-arms to the Legislature.

Commission members introduced themselves and provided information on their backgrounds and their hopes for the Commission. John Tatum and Senator Chaney suggested the Commission also consider how it might be a means of promoting racial reconciliation in our state.

Chairman Winter reviewed Executive Order No. 833 which created the Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat-of-Arms. Chairman Winter pointed out that the advisory commission is to make its recommendations to the Legislature by May 4, 2001, and that its functions include holding regular meetings, receiving public comment, collecting information, consulting with experts in areas of the Commission's work, and making a written recommendation to the Legislature.

Chairman Winter stated that the Commission has been given a sensitive and responsible task that he hopes the Commission will face in an objective way. He urged members not to draw conclusions until the Commission has heard from the citizenry. He hopes that the Commission's work will prove unifying, rather than divisive, for our state. He stated that the Commission's mission is to find a way to honor the past while embracing the promise of tomorrow. Chairman Winter stated that he hopes the Commission can work in an expeditious manner, in the best interest of the citizens of Mississippi, so that the Commission's work will be completed by the convening of the next legislative session. In order to accomplish this, Chairman Winter proposed that the Commission utilize committees to address different areas critical to its mission. Chairman Winter proposed the following committees, with each being comprised of two legislators and a diverse racial representation of Commission members:

Committee on History and Heritage: to confer with appropriate organizations and individuals with special interest in and knowledge of the state's history and the relationship and interpretation of that history through its flag and coat-of-arms. This committee may consult with groups including, but not limited to, the Mississippi Historical Society, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Heritage Trust, the Mississippi African American Historic Preservation Council, Sons

of Confederate Veterans, United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Institute for Racial Reconciliation at the University of Mississippi, the Mississippi Humanities Council, the NAACP, and departments of history at Mississippi universities and colleges.

Dolphus Weary (Chair), Senator Mike Chaney, Representative Steve Holland, Jack Reed, Lisa Milner, and Larry Fry. Dr. David Sansing will serve in an advisory role to the committee.

Committee on Economic Impact: to confer with appropriate organizations and individuals with concern about and understanding of the long term economic impact on the state of controversies involving the state flag. This committee may consult with groups including, but not limited to, the Mississippi Department of Economic and Community Development, the Mississippi Economic Council, the Mississippi Manufacturers Association, the NAACP, local chambers of commerce and economic development organizations, and state chambers of commerce in South Carolina and Georgia.

Don Kilgore (Chair), Representative Ed Blackmon, Senator Terry Burton, J.L. Holloway, and John Tatum. Blake Wilson will serve in an advisory role to the committee.

Committee on Design: to confer with appropriate organizations and individuals who are knowledgeable in the design of flags and coat of arms and who have an understanding of the proper role and significance of such symbols. This committee may consult with groups including, but not limited to, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Flag Society, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and the Mississippi Historical Society.

Fran Ivy (Chair), Senator Hillman Frazier, Representative Wanda Jennings, Vanessa Long, and Jean Moore. Clay Moss and Jean Luckett are to serve in advisory roles to the committee.

Senator Chaney suggested that the Commission might want to add a committee on reconciliation. Chairman Winter stated that he thinks the Commission itself can constitute itself as one of reconciliation and has the potential to serve as a means of reconciliation. Dolphus Weary stated that the flag issue places reconciliation on the

state's agenda and that he is looking forward to talking to and listening to other Commission members and that he hopes all members will do so with honesty.

Chairman Winter suggested that the Commission meet on a monthly basis, with the committees meeting between these monthly meetings and bringing reports to the monthly meetings. The Commission agreed to this schedule and set Monday, September 18, 2000, at 1:00 p.m. as the date of its next meeting.

Dr. David Sansing presented a slide presentation on flags and the history of the state flag of Mississippi. The Commission discussed the media's interest in its work and appropriate responses to media inquiries. John Tatum shared the website [www.visitmississippi.org/Students/StudentsPage/Flags.html](http://www.visitmississippi.org/Students/StudentsPage/Flags.html) as a resource for additional information on flags that have flown over Mississippi.

The Commission discussed a central depository for reference materials regarding the state flag, correspondence and comments from the public, as well as Commission activities. The Commission requested that staff develop an acknowledgement letter to be sent to citizens who offer comments. Until further notice, all public comment may be sent to Kelly Riley's attention in the Governor's Office. The Commission discussed the need to ensure media coverage throughout the state so that all citizens will be informed of the Commission's work and discussed the possibility of a web site as a means of information and communication.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. with Commission members meeting in their respective committees to set meeting dates and to discuss their functions.

*The above minutes were adopted by the Advisory Commission on the Mississippi State Flag and the Mississippi Coat-of-Arm at its September 18, 2000, meeting.*