

For Immediate Release

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Governor Appoints Blessey to Biloxi Port Commission

Jackson, Miss. – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today Appointed Gerald Blessey to the Biloxi Port Commission for a five-year term ending November 30, 2005.

“Gerald will bring great enthusiasm to the Commission and work with other members to diversify and improve the economy for the Gulf Coast,” said Governor Musgrove. “His work experience and service to the Biloxi area will well benefit the people of the Gulf Coast area.”

Blessey received his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Mississippi and his LL.M. from Harvard University.

He was a 1st Lt. in the U.S. Army and was awarded a Bronze Star. Blessey was elected from Harrison County for the term 1972 – 1981 to serve as a Member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, where he was Chairman of the Municipalities Committee. He was a member of the Mississippi Marine Resources Council, served as Mayor of Biloxi from 1981 – 1989. He was appointed by Governor William Winter to serve as Chair of the Mississippi Council on Intergovernmental Relations in 1982, and he served as the Chair of the Municipalities Committee of Governor’s Constitutional Commission in 1986.

Blessey is a former board member of the Mississippi Humanities Council; Advisory Board member for the Center for Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi and Vice-President for the Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce, Culture and Heritage Division.

He has served as Pro Bono Counsel for the Mississippi Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Committee; George E. Ohr Arts and Cultural Center, Inc. (presently the Ohr-O’Keefe Museum); Biloxi First, Inc.; Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, Inc.; Boys and Girls Clubs of Mississippi Gulf Coast and Main Street Neighborhood Steering Committee, Inc.

Blessey is a member of the Mississippi Bar Association, the Harrison County Bar Association, Biloxi Bar Association and is a Fellow with the Mississippi Bar Foundation.

He is currently the solo practitioner for Gerald Blessey & Associates, Lawyers in Biloxi.

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