

Attorney General Jim Hood announces next step in fight against robocalls

Attorney General Jim Hood announced today that he has joined a bipartisan group of 40 state attorneys general to stop or reduce annoying and harmful robocalls. The coalition is reviewing the technology major telecom companies are pursuing to combat illegal robocalls, and it is in addition to the ongoing efforts by the Mississippi Attorney General's Office and the Mississippi Public Service Commission.

"These calls aren't just an annoyance. They are a safety concern," General Hood said. "Our office often receives complaints regarding robo and scam calls, many involving someone, especially the elderly, sending money to the scammer on the other end of the phone. We have committed to be a leading state in the working group because I'm sick of robocallers harassing and scamming Mississippians. I am encouraged by the progress we've made so far, but I will not stop until we see a significant reduction in these calls. Robocalls and spoofing are technological problems that need technological solutions, in addition to regulatory improvements and legal enforcement. That's why we are actively engaging carriers to implement solutions as quickly as possible." In the meantime, our office has consumer education materials to help consumers limit calls, and we have encouraged other states to adopt and utilize those materials as well.

"This summer we partnered with the Mississippi Public Service Commission to issue two consumer guides with information regarding robocalls for both mobile and landlines," General Hood said. "The information guides consumers through their options on both the state and national

level in registering for Do Not Call lists and reporting violations of those lists." The guides, which can be downloaded for free at this link, also include information on resources from mobile apps, phone carriers and cloud-based services, and built-in features on mobile phones.

Since the multistate group was formed, it has had in-depth meetings with several major telecom companies. These productive meetings have led to greater information sharing about the technological capabilities currently in existence or in development to fight these calls.

Attorney General Hood and his/her colleagues are working to:

- Develop a detailed understanding of what is technologically feasible to minimize unwanted robocalls and illegal telemarketing

- Engage the major telecom companies to encourage them to expedite the best possible solutions for consumers

- Determine what future steps should be taken in coordination with federal agencies

Attorney General Hood, an executive member of this group, is joined by creators Attorney General Josh Stein (NC), Attorney General Curtis Hill (IN), and Attorney General Gordon MacDonald (NH) as well as attorneys general from Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

Williams-Sullivan Elementary hosts Miss Mississippi 2018



Miss Mississippi 2018 Aysa Branch made a special visit to Williams-Sullivan Elementary School in Durant accepting its invitation to speak on Thursday, December 6. The Booneville, Mississippi native (pictured above standing right) participated in the school launching its Aftershock Program for girls in its sixth-grade Academy. The program addresses issues of poverty, violence and lack of educational attainment with pre-teen girls, along with making good life choices. Another purpose of Miss Mississippi's visit will be to present a State-wide Tobacco Free and Make Good Choices Program for students called TAR WARS. "We are equally excited about her program as well because it, in many ways, is in line with our After-Shock Program," stated Whigham. Pictured above, Branch was welcomed by school staff and students on Thursday with a reception of cheers, handmade signs and flowers. Pictured first row, Makenzye Webster, PreK, Morghan Smart, PreK, Latisha Hill, PreK, Tywaiian Smith, PreK; Kindergartners, Ta'Brina Lowery, Dariyah Carter, Kaylin Mallett, Mi'Angel Felton, Kayla Mallett, and Craleah McGee; Back row (standing, from left to right), Seketha Williams, guidance counselor, Dr. Shem Whigham, principal, and Branch. Pictured at left, Ka'Lajha Gordon, 9, (at left) and Cha'Nora Teague, 9, proudly show off their handmade welcome sign for Branch before her entrance. Pictured at bottom, Branch is escorted by Whigham into the school's gymnasium as Branch is welcomed by young student gentlemen presenting flowers for Branch.

(Photos by Matthew Breazeale)

Happy Birthday

December 13 - Darrell Williams, Brenda Britt, Shedrick Jordan, Laura Atkinson, Artiko Brown, Jessica Jenkins, Maggie Mangum, Addison Ray, Steven Rutledge

December 14 - Barry Blackstock, Cody Roberts, Riley Angell, Kenzie Baker Cochran, Chad Hammons, Burden Anderson, Kenny Lawshe, Henley Hester, Sondra Cain

December 15 - Drew Trehern, Ralph Hall

December 16 - Anthony Huggins, Monica Mayo, Pierre Jackson, Kesha Thurmond, Jasmine Russell, Roy Bell, Mary Cox, Michael Clark, Mary Killebrew, Mary Presley McLellan, Brett Lawshe, Wes Stroud

December 17 - Warren Davis, Tricia Hooker Poe,

Ashley Boatner Williamson, Carolyn Steen, Eli Lewis, Mary Taylor, Cameron Nicholas Cannon, Rileigh Smith, Jan McCrory

December 18 - Nathan Pierce, Dudley Farmer, Sarah Bugg, Austin G. Edwards, Beth Gantt Murphy, Danny Cain

December 19 - Shirley Brown, Anna Arnold, Tracy Killebrew, Bethany Cain, Cindy Goss Mansfield

Happy Anniversary

December 14 - Koby and Emily Padgett

December 15 - Davis and Donna Hocutt, Cliff and

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON

BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS



Mary Pickett had surgery in Houston, Texas. She will have to take treatments after the surgery. Keep her uplifted in prayer.

Josephine Johnson Powell passed. She lived in West. She had been in one of the hospitals in Jackson. I hope I got her first name right.

A group of people from Tchula, Mr. Arthur Runnels and I were in, visited Berry's Seafood Restaurant in Jackson. We had an enjoy-

able trip. The restaurant had seafood and much more. We wore our purple Delta Rides T-shirts. You can see us on Facebook. We thank Rev. Berry.

Mrs. Nellie Mae Williams in Tchula went to visit her children in Paduka, Kentucky recently. She's back home now.

Mrs. Annie Sago is back at the Senior Citizens' Feeding Site in Lexington. She had

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Melanie Bishop

December 18 - Clay and Mickie Rodgers

December 19 - David and Christy Hudson

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list,

please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email to hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

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