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Children are a gift from the Lord, They are a reward from him! Psalm 127:3

## Looking ahead to the 2020 Legislative Session

By Speaker of the House Philip Gunn

First of all, let me thank you for the honor of being your representative for another four years. It is a privilege to serve you and this community.

With the elections of 2019 behind us, in which Mississippi Republicans secured a "Super Majority" in the legislature, we are ready to get back to work for you. In the upcoming 2020 legislative session, we will continue to build on the achievements of the past eight years since we've held the leadership in Jackson.

Over the last eight years, the Republicans in your legislature have:

- Put forth a **Road and Bridge Plan** that will invest between \$120-150 million into your roads and bridges every year from now on. Every. Year. This plan took money that we already have and rededicated it to Mississippi's roads and bridges. Cities and counties now have a continuing source of revenue to maintain progress in fixing our roads and bridges. In addition, we've injected an additional \$250 million into local bridges this year to address immediate problems.

- Passed SB2347, commonly known as the **"Third Grade Reading Gate."**



Special to The Clinton Courier

Before this measure, our students were only reading at a 69% grade level. Today the grade level exceeds 90%. We have done more to improve reading in Mississippi than has ever been done before. Overall, we've increased the amount of education funding over \$2.5 billion – the most in the history of our state. Just to name one of the many benefits of this funding, graduation rates have increased by 11%, putting Mississippi at the national average.

- **Balanced your state's budget.** We pledged to not spend more money than you give us and will continue to do so. Because of this, we've had to make some tough decisions; but, by following this conservative approach, Mississippi today is in the best financial condition it has seen in years. We now have a balanced budget, have fixed retirement and have given pay raises to both state employees and teachers. The Republican-led legislature have been good stewards of your money, and tax cuts have not affected our ability to run this state.

- Passed the most comprehensive **Anti-Human Trafficking legislation** in the country with HB571. This bill has been called model legislation for other states to follow by the most reputable advocacy organization in the United States.

In 2020, we won't be resting on our laurels. Our goal is to continue to build on these past achievements and to push the needle forward, as far as we can, in order to make Mississippi the best it can be for all the people of this great state.

## Turner family visits Depot, takes a ride on Turner the Train



Special to The Clinton Courier

Olde Towne Depot staff members were recently visited by several members of the Turner family, descendants of Louis Turner Sr., who laid the brick streets in Olde Towne Clinton. Among them were Louis's grandson, Earnest "Tyrone" Turner; Louis's daughter, Thommiezine Turner; and other family members from as far away as Chicago. The Turner family was given a ride on Turner the Train, which was named for Louis Turner, who, in 1928, assisted by a crew of workers, laid all of the bricks on Clinton's famed brick streets. Turner, a veteran of World War I, worked with extreme pace, laying all 600,000+ bricks in a just a handful of days as the November weather turned from chilly to cold. Pictured (l to r) are Thommiezine Turner, Gwendolyn Turner, Mary Turner, Jeffery Turner, Hilton Turner, Jessica Turner and Johnny Wayne Turner.



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**Commitment to community is one of our core values.**

BankPlus is committed to building strong communities throughout Mississippi by improving quality of life and making a positive difference where we live and work.

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