



MARY ANNE JIGGITS GOWAN

Mary Anne Jiggitts Gowan passed away on May 13, 2021, at Baptist Medical Center surrounded by her loved ones. Services will be held at Lakewood Memorial Cemetery, 6000 Clinton Boulevard, Jackson, on Thursday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m. Family visitation was held at Sebrell Funeral Home 425 Northpark Drive, Ridgeland on Wednesday, May 19 from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m.

Mary Anne was born on June 19, 1925, to Jackson attorneys Col. Louis Meredith and Lavonia Caradine Jiggitts. She was the granddaughter of Dr. James Robinson and Mary Powell Jiggitts of Canton and Judge and Mrs. James Emmett Caradine of West Point. She was the great-granddaughter of Judge Robert and Annie Tupper Powell of Jackson.

Mary Anne attended Jackson Public Schools and graduated from Central High School in 1943. She attended Converse College in South Carolina for two years and graduated from Millsaps College with a Bachelor of Science in chemistry in 1946, where she was a member of Chi Omega Fraternity.

On December 28, 1945, Mary Anne made her debut in Jackson. She was a member of the Cotillion Club, Debutante Club of Mississippi and Delta Beta Sigma Sorority. She was a charter member of the LeDejeuner Luncheon Club and a member of the Junior League of Jackson.

Mary Anne worked as a lab technician at Baptist Hospital, where she met Dr. Hugh L. Gowan of Thomastown. They married on August 18, 1951, and moved to Pickens. In Pickens, Mary Anne was active in the community, serving, among others

things, as a Girl Scout troop leader. She was a communicant of Grace Episcopal Church of Canton.

An early disciple of the environmental movement, Mary Anne bought her first fuel efficient car in 1975, a Toyota Corolla with manual drive and an installed air conditioner, which had to be cut off at stop signs or the car would go dead.

In 1978, Mary Anne returned to school at Holmes Community College to study data processing, graduating first in her class. She bought one of the first at-home IBM computers and went on to learn over seven computer languages.

For many years, Mary Anne traveled extensively, first with her husband and, after his death in 1987, with friends. She especially loved traveling in Asia and enjoyed cooking Asiatic dishes.

Mary Anne returned to Jackson in 1988, where she enjoyed being a member of the LeDejeuner Luncheon Club, the Matron's Luncheon Club, a volunteer for the International Ballet Competition and taking computer classes at Belhaven and Millsaps.

On January 27, 2005, Mary Anne married Chester Wells, and, with his encouragement, she took up the game of golf.

Mary Anne was preceded in death by her husbands, Dr. Hugh L. Gowan and Chester Wells. She is survived by her son Hugh L. Gowan Jr (Debbie) and grandson Lee; her daughter Meredith Gowan Le Goff and close family friend Bonnie Sides; nieces, Debbie Jiggitts, Tupper England; nephews, Edley Jones, Howell Jones, and Bill Gowan.

A very special thanks to Addie Nichols, Cassandra Luckett and Gladys Townsend for all the care and attention given to Mary Anne over the past few years. Also thanks to the staff of KinderCare, especially Natalie Myrick.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Grace Episcopal Church, 161 E. Peace St., Canton, MS 39046, or to St. Jude's Hospital for Children, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.



# 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Salute to Delta Honor Graduates to be held June 4

*Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann to Serve as Keynote Speaker*

## News Release

On Friday, June 4, 2021, Delta Council will hold its 18th Annual Salute to Delta Honor Graduates event during the 86th Annual Meeting of the regional organization at Delta State University. The event is slated for 9:00 a.m. on the lawn of the Bologna Performing Arts Center. Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann will be the keynote speaker for the event.

Raised in Warren County, Mississippi, Lt. Governor Hosemann has substantial experience in the private sector as a businessman and tax lawyer. He is a former partner of Phelps Dunbar, LLP. He received his under-

graduate degree in Business from the University of Notre Dame, a law degree from the University of Mississippi, and a Master of Laws in Taxation from New York University. Prior to attending law school, Lt. Governor Hosemann served his country in the United States Army Reserve.

The Honorable Delbert Hosemann is serving as the 33rd Lieutenant Governor and previously served as Secretary of State. Under his leadership, the Senate has consolidated workforce development efforts, increased training opportunities for high-skill jobs, and retooled economic development incentives to be competitive

and performance-based. In two years, the Legislature has doubled its investment in pre-K, raised teacher pay, increased funding for classroom supplies, and provided every student with a computer or tablet.

He and Lynn, his wife of 50 years, are members of St. Richard Catholic Church. They are extremely proud of their three children: Kristen, Chad, and Mark; and grandchildren Grace, Nora Lynn, Carson, Charlie, Manse, Charlotte, and Howard Delbert.

The Honor Graduate Event is designed to bestow special honor upon two exemplary students from each of the high schools

throughout the Mississippi Delta Region, including public, parochial and private schools. Students are selected by school administrators based on leadership, extra-curricular, scholastic, and community service.

“We are proud to recognize the 139 outstanding high school graduates from across the 19-county Delta region on Delta Council Day,” said Delta Council President Paul Hollis. “It is my hope that each of these graduates continue their education successfully and return home to help make the Delta an even better place to live and work.”

In addition, a \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded to the top Delta Honor Graduate as selected by higher education officials in the Delta, to help defray tuition and expenses as the student's college of choice sees fit. The top Delta Honor Graduate will be recognized from the stage of the Annual Meeting during the Business Session, which begins at 10:30 a.m.

Students being honored from Holmes County are:

Breann Bell, Central Holmes Christian School; Kelsey Gilmore, Central Holmes Christian School; Cameron Keys, Holmes County Central High School; and Kaitlin Kimbrough, Holmes County Central High School.

Sponsors for the 86th Annual Meeting include: Bank-Plus, Catfish Farmers of Mississippi, Cotton, Inc., Delta State University, Mississippi Corn Promotion Board, Mississippi Rice Promotion Board, Mississippi Soybean Promotion Board, Simplot and Southern Ag Credit/Mississippi Land Bank.

# Petitioning starts for plan to expand Mississippi Medicaid

**By Emily Wagster Pettus**  
MADISON, Miss. (AP) — Health care professionals on Tuesday became the first people to sign petitions to put Medicaid expansion on the November 2022 ballot in Mississippi.

Organizers of Initiative 76 have a year to gather more than 106,000 signatures. But to reach the ballot in 2022, they must finish gathering signatures before the Legislature meets early next year.

Medicaid is a health insurance program for the needy, aged, blind and disabled. It is paid by federal and state money. Mississippi has about 3 million residents, and Medicaid already covers more than 763,500 people. That is 25% of the population.

Supporters of Initiative 76 estimate that expansion would add about 200,000 more people, primarily those working low-wage jobs that do not provide private health insurance coverage.

Mississippi is one of 12 states that have not approved expanding Medicaid coverage to the working poor, which is an option under the Affordable Care Act that was signed into law in 2010 by then-President Barack Obama.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves and his Republican predecessor, Phil Bryant, have said they believe Mississippi cannot afford to put more people on the program, even with the federal government paying for most of the tab.

Dr. John Gaudet is a Hattiesburg pediatrician who is sponsoring the initiative. He said Medicaid expansion could help people like his niece, who was diagnosed with a digestive tract disease when she was a child and

still has health challenges as an adult. Gaudet said she is a dispatcher for an ambulance company but cannot work enough hours to keep insurance coverage through her employer. He said she is considering applying for disability benefits, but expanding Medicaid would allow her to continue working without worrying about big medical bills.

“Although she regularly saves lives, we may lose her skills to her need for coverage,” Gaudet said during a news conference Tuesday.

Amory resident Jonathan Smith, 35, said he hopes he would become eligible for Medicaid coverage if the program is expanded. Smith said he was working as a forklift operator about four years ago when he began having seizures. Doctors found he had cancer of the nervous system. Smith said that about the time he had a brain tumor removed, his employer switched insurance plans in early 2018 and he was left without coverage. He said he has been unable to work because seizures have continued, and he remains uninsured. He said family members have helped him pay some bills.

“There’s no way that I could pay for these thousands upon thousands of dollars worth of bills,” said Smith, the father children who are 1, 5, 7 and 8 years old.

Tim Moore, president and CEO of the Mississippi Hospital Association, said Mississippi has been turning down billions of federal dollars that could keep hospitals and clinics open. He said half of the rural hospitals in the state are in financial jeopardy.

“If you believe in small

towns, you believe in Medicaid expansion,” Moore said.

Because Mississippi is one of the poorest states in the nation, it receives the most generous portions of federal funding for Medicaid. The federal government currently pays 84.5% of Medicaid expenses in Mississippi. The next-largest federal share goes to West Virginia, at nearly 81%.

Under expansion, the federal government would pay a higher share of the cost.

If supporters of Initiative 76 gather enough signatures, legislators will have a chance to put an alternate proposal dealing with the same subject on the same ballot. That could confuse some voters who would have to choose between competing ideas over whether to expand Medicaid to people who work in jobs that provide modest pay but do not provide private health insurance.



## THURMOND CEMETERY CLUB

The Thurmond Cemetery Club will have a two day Spring cleaning on Friday, May 28 and Saturday, May 29 beginning at 10:00 a.m. each morning. Please bring rakes, shovels, hoes, trash bags, gloves, weed eaters and any other supplies necessary.

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## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

- In Holmes County - \$35.00
- In Mississippi - \$40.00
- Outside Mississippi - \$50.00