



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: City Staff
Phone: (601) 856-7113

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 25, 2024

MAYOR GENE MCGEE RECEIVES STS GOVERNMENTAL TOURISM LEADERSHIP AWARD

RIDGELAND, MS – Mayor Gene McGee has recently received the prestigious Southeast Tourism Society (STS) Governmental Tourism Leadership Award. Tourism is a thriving industry in Ridgeland, Mississippi, that has grown exponentially since the creation of the Ridgeland Tourism Commission (RTC) 27 years ago, an accomplishment led by Ridgeland’s mayor, the Honorable Gene McGee. The RTC exists because of his forward-thinking and determination to see it created by the state legislature.

Each year, a selection committee recognizes outstanding tourism leaders in the Southeast, celebrating their accomplishments in marketing, revenue growth, and contributions to the industry. STS is a not-for-profit membership association dedicated to the development of travel and tourism professionals and organizations within the southeast region. The association’s mission is to empower a diverse network of tourism professionals through Education, Advocacy, Recognition, and Networking. Member states include Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

"Mayor Gene McGee’s vision and dedication have been instrumental in shaping Ridgeland into a thriving travel destination," said Chris Chapman, president and CEO of Explore Ridgeland. *"His unwavering support for the Ridgeland Tourism Commission has allowed us to showcase the unique offerings of our city to visitors from across the region and beyond. To be recognized with the Governmental Tourism Leadership Award, out of the numerous leaders from the 13 states and the District of Columbia, is a testament to his exceptional leadership and commitment to fostering tourism growth. We are honored to celebrate this well-deserved milestone with him."*

Mayor McGee and city officials' support has been crucial for RTC in promoting Ridgeland as a travel destination. As Ridgeland celebrates the growth of tourism, it is fitting to recognize the Honorable Gene McGee for the Governmental Tourism Leadership Award.

###

mailing address: p.o. box 217 • ridgeland, ms 39158
street address: 100 W. School St. • ridgeland, ms 39157
ph: 601.856.7113 • www.ridgelandms.org

Gene F. McGee, cmo - mayor • Paula W. Tierce, phr - city clerk / human resources director

board of aldermen: D.I. Smith, cmo - at-large • Ken Heard, cmo - ward 1 • Chuck Gautier, cmo - ward 2
Kevin Holder, cmo, - ward 3 • Brian P. Ramsey, cmo - ward 4 • Bill Lee - ward 5 • Wesley Hamlin, cmo, mayor pro-temore - ward 6