

OKOLONA BAPTIST CHURCH

R. B. PATTERSON, PASTOR
OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI

Oct. 22, 1940.

Honorable Theo. G. Bilbo,
U. S. Senator,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Bilbo:

At the recent session of the Pontotoc County Baptist Association which met in Echu, Miss., Oct. 17-18, composed of messengers and representatives of over thirty Baptists Churches with a membership totaling over five thousand, we, the undersigned, members of said Association, were appointed as a committee to communicate with Honorable Theo. G. Bilbo, Honorable Pat Harrison, and the Honorable Paul Johnson, Governor of the State of Mississippi, the will and wish of the Association as follows:

We call upon you to use the influence of your high office to do all in your power to see to it that the moral and physical welfare of the soldiers who are being quartered in and around Mattiesburg, Miss., and at other points in our State, is made safe from the unholy and demoralizing effects of the liquor business. We are glad that the United States Government is seeing fit to send to our State such a goodly number of its finest young men to be trained and fitted for the defense of the nation. The backbone of the nation: the mothers and fathers and sisters and sweethearts of these young men-- they, will be looking to Mississippi to do her best by them while they are here in our midst. Let us not fail them! Let us send them back home, when this is over, better men because of the fact that they came to Mississippi. The liquor interests would not have it so! We believe that a strict enforcement of our laws in and about these camps will do much to safeguard the better and higher interests of these young men who are being committed into our trust. We, therefore, call upon you, under God, to do what you can for the flower of our manhood, the defense of the nation, and the preservation of law and order to the Glory of God and the true welfare of humanity.

Respectfully yours,

Hugh A. Brown

Moderator Pontotoc Association

F. D. Leavelle

Com. Member.

O. B. Wilson

Com. Member.

R. B. Patterson

Com. Member.