



## HOUSE BILL 756

In the 2018 Session of the Mississippi Legislature  
House Bill 756 was passed designating the

“JOHN DAVID PENNEBAKER  
MEMORIAL HIGHWAY”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE  
OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

SECTION 1. (1) The segment of Mississippi Highway 15 North in Union County, Mississippi, beginning at the New Albany, Mississippi, city limits and running north to the Union County line, is designated as the “John David Pennebaker Memorial Highway.”

(2) The Mississippi Department of Transportation shall erect and maintain appropriate signs along and approaching the segment of highway described in subsection (1) of this section.

## DEDICATION CEREMONY

## JOHN DAVID PENNEBAKER MEMORIAL HIGHWAY



**EBENEZER ARP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**601 COUNTY ROAD 713**  
**BLUE MOUNTAIN, MISSISSIPPI**

Friday, June 7, 2019  
2:00 p.m.

# JOHN DAVID PENNEBAKER

*August 31, 1943 - March 9, 2016*

John David Pennebaker was born on August 31, 1943, to the late Cleo Barkley Pennebaker and Dr. David McBryde Pennebaker, whose ancestors were pioneer settlers of Union and Tippah counties. John David graduated New Albany High School, Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi School of Law. In 1969, at the age of 25 years old, he was elected Mayor of the City of New Albany. In 1973 he was honorably discharged from the Mississippi Army National Guard with the rank of staff sergeant after six years of service as a member of Troop C of the 108th Armored Calvary in New Albany. After serving as Mayor of New Albany for two terms, John David was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1975.

During his 17-year tenure as Representative he was a member of the Appropriations Committee, Conservation and Water Resources Committee, Constitution Committee, Judiciary A Committee, Municipalities Committee, Public Health and Welfare Committee, Public Utilities Committee, Judiciary B Committee, Management and Rules Committee, and served as Vice Chairman of the Highways and Highway Finance Committee and as Chairman (1980-1992) of the Highways and Highway Finance Committee and the Transportation Committee.

Among many significant pieces of legislation that John David authored, steered to passage or was greatly responsible for passage in the Legislature, he was most proud of the following:

- 1981 legislation that required the establishment of priorities for the maintenance and construction of state highways.
- The 1987 bill that provided \$1.6 billion in funding for the construction of 1,077 miles of 4 lane highways throughout the state, (a portion of this is now I 22).
- The Economic Development Highway Act of 1988.
- The 1992 bill creating the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

John David was awarded the first Owen Cooper Memorial Award which is given to an individual who has been instrumental in supporting and promoting transportation in Mississippi and was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the New Albany Rotary Club.

Upon his retirement from the House of Representatives in 1992, John David returned to New Albany to continue his law practice. His retirement from public service, however, was not over. John David was called upon to serve as interim Union County Chancery Clerk from June until November 1999. And, later to serve as interim Union County Justice Court Judge.

John David Pennebaker served the city of New Albany, Union County, and the State of Mississippi with integrity and distinction.

The portion of highway being named in his memory today was part of John David's daily routine of "going to the farm" and passes by farm land now owned by a third generation of the Pennebaker family.

## *Program*

### WELCOME

Glenn Duckworth  
*Congregational Chairman*  
*Ebenezer ARP Presbyterian Church*

### INVOCATION

Reverend William B. Everett, *Pastor*  
*Emeritus New Albany Presbyterian Church*

### REMARKS

Honorable Margaret Ellis Rogers  
*Mississippi House of Representatives*

Honorable Michael P. Mills  
*U.S. District Judge*  
*Northern District of Mississippi*

Honorable Mike Tagert  
*Northern District Commissioner*  
*Mississippi Transportation Commission*

### UNVEILING OF SIGN

Elected Officials and Family Members