

By: Representative Montgomery

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 158

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL
2 STUDENTS FOR THEIR COURAGE, BRAVERY AND HEROIC MEASURES AFTER
3 SURVIVING THE AMTRAK TRAIN WRECK.

4 WHEREAS, three young men from Clinton, Mississippi, displayed
5 courage and bravery after surviving the Amtrak train wreck on
6 March 15, 1999, in Bourbonnais, Illinois; and

7 WHEREAS, a group of Clinton students were on their way home
8 from a 10-day spring break skiing trip in Quebec, Canada, when the
9 Amtrak train careened off the tracks after slamming into a truck
10 loaded with steel bars at a crossing 50 miles south of Chicago,
11 Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, after the crash, the train was silent only for a
13 moment before survivors screamed in fear during the horrible
14 tragedy; and

15 WHEREAS, amidst the wreckage of the car the students were in,
16 Michael Freeman, a junior at Clinton High School, calmly and
17 carefully searched for an exit; and

18 WHEREAS, after opening a door, Michael Freeman found what
19 appeared to be power lines, so the young man continued his search
20 for another exit and found a window; and

21 WHEREAS, Michael Freeman built a ladder from broken chairs
22 while Caleb McNair and Jeffrey Sartor, also of Clinton, began
23 searching in the darkness for victims and assisting in their
24 rescue; and

25 WHEREAS, these three young men risked their lives in a
26 dangerous situation among smoke, fire and deadly destruction to

27 save the lives of others; and

28 WHEREAS, most of the Clinton students involved in the Amtrak
29 train wreck escaped serious harm with only bumps and bruises; and

30 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
31 and commend heroism, especially when evidenced by the courageous
32 and brave young people of this state, who are its future:

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
34 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
35 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the Clinton students for their
36 courage, bravery and heroic measures after surviving the Amtrak
37 train wreck.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
39 furnished to the Clinton students and members of the Capitol Press
40 Corps.