

By: Representative Montgomery

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 158  
(As Adopted by House)

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.