

By: Representatives Rotenberry, Hudson,  
Weathersby

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 63

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE MENDENHALL  
2 VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ITS QUICK RESPONSE TO THE MASSIVE  
3 FIRE IN DOWNTOWN TAYLORSVILLE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1999.

4 WHEREAS, a quick and massive response by the Mendenhall  
5 Volunteer Fire Department and by other area volunteer fire  
6 departments on Sunday, January 31, 1999, prevented a building fire  
7 from destroying downtown Taylorsville, Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, more than 20 units from Smith and surrounding  
9 counties responded to a call for help as the old Melroy Theater, a  
10 familiar Taylorsville landmark which housed the May Appliance  
11 Center, became engulfed in flames that destroyed the building; and

12 WHEREAS, with assistance from volunteer fire departments from  
13 Taylorsville, Mize, Raleigh, Richton, Shady Grove, Hebron,  
14 Pleasant Ridge, Powers, Soso, Myrick, Moselle, Mill Creek, Boggy  
15 Creek, Northeast Jones, Sharon, Glade, Johnson, Magee, Collins,  
16 Hot Coffee, East Covington, Stringer and Bay Springs, the  
17 Mendenhall Volunteer Fire Department battled the blaze until about  
18 2:00 a.m. Monday, February 1, 1999; and

19 WHEREAS, according to official reports, flames had broken  
20 through the roof of the building and blazed to a height of over 20  
21 feet, threatening to quickly spread to other structures due to the  
22 radiation of so much heat; and

23 WHEREAS, firemen saturated the walls with water from a bucket  
24 truck that Entergy had provided to prevent the fire from spreading  
25 until help arrived, and it would have been worse if not for the  
26 incredible response from other fire departments; and

27           WHEREAS, personnel from the Mize Police Department, Smith  
28 County Sheriff's Department, Soso Police Department, Jones County  
29 Sheriff's Department and Jasper County Sheriff's Department, along  
30 with the Pine Belt Chapter of the American Red Cross and the AMR  
31 Ambulance Service also responded to provide assistance, and all  
32 are to be praised for their work; and

33           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the hard  
34 work and quick response of all these Mississippians who helped  
35 their neighbors when they were most needed, by preventing a  
36 building fire from destroying a Mississippi town:

37           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
38 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
39 recognize and commend the Mendenhall Volunteer Fire Department for  
40 its quick response to the massive fire in downtown Taylorsville on  
41 Sunday, January 31, 1999, and express our appreciation to all  
42 other units that assisted in this effort.

43           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
44 presented to the Chief of the Mendenhall Volunteer Fire Department  
45 and the Mayor of Mendenhall on behalf of all personnel responding  
46 to the fire, and that copies be furnished to the Capitol Press  
47 Corps.