

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 559

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING "THE
2 MAGEE COURIER" FOR 100 YEARS OF RECORDING HISTORY.

3 WHEREAS, for more than 100 years, The Magee Courier has
4 recorded the events that have shaped Magee and Simpson County; and

5 WHEREAS, official state records show The Courier was founded
6 March 19, 1899 by Will Jarvis, there is evidence that suggests a
7 forerunner of The Courier was published as early as 1879, but
8 newspaper records were destroyed by fire in 1928.

9 WHEREAS, although the first 30 years of the paper's existence
10 is unclear, by 1903, Ralph Gray was the paper's publisher and
11 Eugene Terry, editor. The name was The Magee Herald during this
12 time; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1904, the name was changed to The Magee Courier
14 and that year or perhaps in 1905, W.V. Watkins was editor and
15 publisher; and

16 WHEREAS, a year's subscription then cost \$1.00, and the paper
17 was published on Friday; and

18 WHEREAS, by 1929, R.H. Watkins had become editor, and he sold
19 the paper to A.P. Russell in 1930; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1936, the paper was sold to T.P. Bond. A year
21 later the trustees appointed H.D. Gillis as editor, and two months
22 later Harlan Hilburn assumed the position; Hilburn is noted as
23 being the first editor to use colored newsprint in Magee; and

24 WHEREAS, Hilburn sold to C.C. Bryant in 1939; and

25 WHEREAS, G.O. Parker bought the paper from Bryant after his
26 retirement in 1948; Parker led The Courier from hot metal into the

27 offset era, installing a News King press in 1968; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1970, Parker sold to Tom and Betty Dickson. They
29 installed the first compugraphic equipment; and

30 WHEREAS, in late 1984, the Dicksons sold to Owen and Lacy
31 Lusk, who added four units to the press, and installed the paper's
32 first computer-driven pagination and typesetting system, and when
33 the paper was sold in 1993 to Emmerick Newspaper the computers
34 were upgraded again; and

35 WHEREAS, The Magee Courier now employs 13 full-time and five
36 part-time staffers; and

37 WHEREAS, The Magee Courier has been a source of historical
38 data for the citizens who helped build the Magee and Simpson
39 County area; and

40 WHEREAS, The Magee Courier has supported the children in
41 their accomplishments and recognized the success of the people of
42 Magee in their private and business lives; and

43 WHEREAS, The Magee Courier has worked diligently for the
44 future of the City of Magee while reflecting on the past history
45 of the citizens as they developed the area; and

46 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
47 outstanding publication for its considerable contribution to the
48 civic and business growth of Magee and Simpson County,
49 Mississippi:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
52 we do hereby commend and congratulate "The Magee Courier" as it
53 celebrates 100 years of recording history in Magee and Simpson
54 County, Mississippi, and wish it continued success in the new
55 century.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
57 forwarded to Pat Brown, editor of "The Magee Courier," and be made
58 available to the Capitol Press Corps.