

By: Senator(s) Smith

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 559  
(As Adopted by Senate)

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.