

By: Senator(s) Thames

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 639

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE SMITH
2 COUNTY SHERIFF'S 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 Smith County
5 Sheriff's Department and by area volunteer fire departments on
6 Sunday, January 31, 1999, prevented a building fire from
7 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 Mize, Raleigh, Sylvarena, Richton, Shady Grove, Hebron, Pleasant
14 Ridge, Powers, Soso, Myrick, Moselle, Mill Creek, Boggy Creek,
15 Northeast Jones, Sharon, Glade, Johnson, Mendenhall, Magee,
16 Collins, Hot Coffee, East Covington, Stringer and Bay Springs, the
17 22-member Taylorsville Volunteer Fire Department battled the blaze
18 until about 2:00 a.m. Monday, February 1, 1999; and

19 WHEREAS, personnel from the Mize Police Department, Smith
20 County Sheriff's Department, Soso Police Department, Jones County
21 Sheriff's Department and Jasper County Sheriff's Department, along
22 with the Pine Belt Chapter of the American Red Cross and the AMR
23 Ambulance Service also responded to provide assistance, and all
24 are to be praised for their work; and

25 WHEREAS, according to official reports, flames had broken
26 through the roof of the building and blazed to a height of over 20

27 feet, threatening to quickly spread to other structures due to the
28 radiation of so much heat; and

29 WHEREAS, firemen saturated the walls with water from a bucket
30 truck that Entergy had provided to prevent the fire from spreading
31 until help arrived, and it would have been worse if not for the
32 incredible response from other fire departments; 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 neighbor when they were most needed, by preventing a
36 building fire from destroying a Mississippi town:

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

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
44 presented to the sheriff of Smith County on behalf of all
45 personnel responding to the fire, and that copies be made
46 available to the Capitol Press Corps.