

By: Senator(s) Thames

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 641

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE
2 RALEIGH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE RALEIGH POLICE
3 DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR QUICK RESPONSE TO THE MASSIVE FIRE IN
4 DOWNTOWN TAYLORSVILLE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1999.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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