

By: Senator(s) Thames

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 644  
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE JASPER  
2 COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR QUICK RESPONSE TO THE  
3 MASSIVE FIRE IN DOWNTOWN TAYLORSVILLE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1999.

4 WHEREAS, a quick and massive response by the Jasper 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 Jasper County Police Department,  
20 Smith County Sheriff's Department, Soso Police Department, Jones  
21 County Sheriff's Department and Mize County Sheriff's Department,  
22 along with the Pine Belt Chapter of the American Red Cross and the  
23 AMR Ambulance Service also responded to provide assistance, and  
24 all 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 Jasper County Sheriff's  
40 Department for their quick response to the massive fire in  
41 downtown 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 Jasper County on behalf of all  
45 personnel responding to the fire, and that copies be made  
46 available to the Capitol Press Corps.