

By: Senator(s) Thames

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 646  
(As Adopted by House and Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE  
2 TAYLORSVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE TAYLORSVILLE 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 Taylorsville  
6 Volunteer Fire Department and the Taylorsville Police Department  
7 and by area volunteer fire departments on Sunday, January 31,  
8 1999, prevented a building fire from destroying downtown  
9 Taylorsville, Mississippi; and

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

14 WHEREAS, with assistance from volunteer fire departments from  
15 Mize, Raleigh, Sylvarena, Richton, Shady Grove, Hebron, Pleasant  
16 Ridge, Powers, Soso, Myrick, Moselle, Mill Creek, Boggy Creek,  
17 Northeast Jones, Sharon, Glade, Johnson, Mendenhall, Magee,  
18 Collins, Hot Coffee, East Covington, Stringer and Bay Springs, the  
19 22-member Taylorsville Volunteer Fire Department battled the blaze  
20 until about 2:00 a.m. Monday, February 1, 1999; and

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

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

28 incredible response from other fire departments; and

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

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

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

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