

By: Farris, King

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 564

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING PAUL
2 VARNADO OF HATTIESBURG UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE 2000 PRUDENTIAL
3 SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD.

4 WHEREAS, Paul Varnado, 16, of Hattiesburg, was named
5 Mississippi's top youth volunteers for the year 2000 in The
6 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards a nationwide program
7 honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism; and

8 WHEREAS, The awards program now in its fifth year, is
9 sponsored by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in
10 partnership with the National Association of Secondary School
11 Principals; more than 20,000 high school and middle level students
12 were considered for awards in this year's program; and

13 WHEREAS, Paul was nominated by Hattiesburg High School in
14 Hattiesburg; as state honoree, he will receive \$1,000.00, an
15 engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense paid trip in May to
16 Washington, D.C., where he will join the top two honorees - one
17 middle level and one high school youth - from each of the other
18 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico for several days
19 of national recognition events; ten of them will be named
20 America's top youth volunteers for 2000 at that time; and

21 WHEREAS, Paul a sophomore at Hattiesburg High School, planned
22 and built a playground for a daycare program serving needy
23 children; after learning that a daycare center for disadvantaged
24 children had to relocate to a site with no outdoor play area, Paul
25 decided to design and build a new playground; he spent weeks
26 researching state and federal safety regulations, applying for

27 grants, pricing materials and soliciting donations of materials
28 and funds; next, Paul organized a volunteer work crew made of Boy
29 Scouts and church and family members; this team cleared the site,
30 framed timbers, and shoveled hundreds of pound of pea gravel for a
31 "fall zone"; Paul then picked up and assembled slides, climbing
32 toys and a playhouse; additional donations of new high chairs,
33 baby beds and toys helped refurbish classrooms at the new site;
34 due to Paul's careful planning an hours of work, the daycare
35 center's children were able to use the completed playground on
36 their very first day at the new site; and

37 WHEREAS, every day, we see more and more the need for
38 dedicated and talented volunteers like these young students; we
39 are motivated by their community spirit, and we know that as
40 others realize the impact these honorees have made, their
41 community spirit will indeed spread; and

42 WHEREAS, the awards are part of a broad initiative created by
43 Prudential to encourage young people to become involved in
44 community service; in addition to Girl Scouts of the USA and
45 National 4-H Council, The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards
46 are supported by the American Association of School
47 Administrators; American Red Cross; Campfire Boys and Girls;
48 Council of the Great City Schools; Family, Career and Community
49 Leaders of America; Key Club International; National Council of La
50 Raza; National Middle School Association; National School Boards
51 Association; National School Public Relations Association;
52 National Urban League; Points of Light Foundation; United National
53 Indian Tribal Youth, Inc.; YMCA of the USA; and YWCA of the USA:

54 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE CONCURRING THEREIN, That
56 we do hereby commend and congratulate Paul Varnado of Hattiesburg,
57 Mississippi, as a recipient of The Prudential Spirit of Community
58 Award, recognizing his outstanding record of volunteer service,
59 peer leadership and community spirit, and extends best wishes of
60 the Legislature for his continued success and happiness.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
62 presented to Paul Varnado and his family and be made available to
63 the Capitol Press Corps.