

By: Lee

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 650  
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MS.  
2 BOBBI BARROWS UPON HER SELECTION FOR THE SERVICE TO MISSISSIPPI'S  
3 CHILDREN/YOUTH AWARD BY THE GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE FOR VOLUNTEER  
4 EXCELLENCE (GIVE) PROGRAM.

5 WHEREAS, Ms. Bobbi Barrows was nominated by the Picayune,  
6 Mississippi, School District and was selected as the recipient of  
7 the Service to Mississippi's Children/Youth Award by the  
8 Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Program; and

9 WHEREAS, she will be honored at the awards luncheon on May 4,  
10 2000, in Jackson, Mississippi, where all program recipients and  
11 nominators will be recognized; and

12 WHEREAS, Bobbi Barrows is a literacy volunteer who has  
13 overcome her own reading difficulties and now helps children and  
14 adults become better readers; as part of a partnership with  
15 AmeriCorps, the Mississippi Department of Education and the  
16 Parenting Resource Center in Picayune, she is helping children  
17 with severe reading problems to improve their grades, adults to  
18 raise their reading levels, and parents to find ways to use  
19 reading and writing at home with their children; and

20 WHEREAS, as a child growing up, her greatest obstacle was  
21 learning to read; she struggled all of her academic career with  
22 reading; she eventually graduated from high school, but to do so  
23 she had to work diligently and use compensatory techniques; after  
24 graduation she continued her struggle, she married and her husband  
25 helped and encouraged her to read high interest material aloud to  
26 him; when she became a mother, she knew the value of reading aloud  
27 to them; and

28           WHEREAS, as part of a partnership with AmeriCorps, the  
29 Mississippi Department of Education and the Parenting Resource  
30 Center in Picayune, Mississippi, Ms. Barrows works Monday through  
31 Friday, serving 32 children at Nicholson Elementary School who  
32 have severe reading, writing and spelling difficulties; she works  
33 in five classes in a Title I Program for dyslexic children, she  
34 helps the children with one-on-one and small group tutoring; her  
35 efforts have had a positive impact in her classes. The grades of  
36 the children she works with have improved dramatically, and the  
37 children have moved up into higher level workbooks; teachers have  
38 written letters about their successes. All of the children have  
39 been pre-tested for participation in the program, and they will be  
40 post-tested at the end of the program; and

41           WHEREAS, in addition to her work during the school day, Ms.  
42 Barrows provides support to children as an after-school tutor;  
43 moreover, as part of her AmeriCorps service hours, she volunteers  
44 at the Parenting Resource Center each Monday and Wednesday from  
45 4:00-6:00 p.m. She helps parents who come to the center by  
46 serving as a resource for ways they can use reading and writing at  
47 home to help their children become better readers. Without her  
48 volunteer efforts the center would not be able to remain open  
49 during these extended hours. This center serves the entire  
50 community; and

51           WHEREAS, since November 1, 1999, Bobbi has also initiated a  
52 literacy class for eight adults and she volunteers as the  
53 facilitator of the Project H.O.P.E. Program for people who face  
54 reading challenges, not unlike her own, using the Texas Scottish  
55 Rite Hospital Literacy Program, a multi-sensory, intensive,  
56 systematic language-based approach to teaching reading, writing  
57 and spelling; and

58           WHEREAS, because of her personal struggles, she is a dynamic  
59 mentor, role model, and in some ways a hero to her students; she  
60 is truly changing lives; and

61           WHEREAS, on behalf of the citizens of Mississippi, it is with  
62 great pride that we recognize this dedicated citizen for her  
63 ongoing efforts and commitment to improving the lives of the  
64 people of the state:

65           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
66 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
67 we do hereby commend and congratulate Ms. Bobbi Barrows upon her  
68 selection for the Service to Mississippi's Children/Youth Award by  
69 the Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Program,  
70 and wish this deserving volunteer continued success in her civic  
71 and personal endeavors.

72           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
73 presented to Ms. Barrows and her family, and be made available to  
74 the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service and the Capitol  
75 Press Corps.