

By: Lee

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 650
(As Adopted by House and 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.