

By: Ross, Kirby

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING JONATHAN WEST OF BRANDON,
2 MISSISSIPPI, ON HIS KARATE SKILLS AND CONGRATULATING HIM FOR
3 REPRESENTING MISSISSIPPI ON TEAM AMERICA AT THE WORLD ORGANIZATION
4 OF MARTIAL ARTS MILLENNIUM GAMES IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA.

5 WHEREAS, Jonathan West, a 9-year-old from Brandon,
6 Mississippi, is the only competitor from Mississippi on Team
7 America which will represent the United States in the World
8 Organization of Martial Arts Millennium Games being held in
9 Sydney, Australia; and

10 WHEREAS, the City of Brandon, school officials, his church
11 and many friends and family are preparing a send-off celebration
12 for Jonathan and his parents, Mickie and Tony West, to take place
13 on March 27, 2000, which is his ninth birthday; and

14 WHEREAS, Jonathan has been taking karate from Norma Jean
15 Gober for almost five years, and is a high orange belt; his first
16 lesson was on his fourth birthday and now on his ninth birthday he
17 is headed to compete in a world championship tournament; and

18 WHEREAS, his style is Traditional Okanowan Shotokan, he has
19 been competing nationally for two years and this past September he
20 competed in one of the nation's largest international tournaments
21 - The Battle of Atlanta - which was a qualifying tournament for
22 the World Organization of Martial Arts Athletes World Games called
23 "The Millennium Games" in Sydney, Australia; Tae-Kwon-Do sparring
24 is an Olympic Sport for the first time this year, and in order to
25 qualify for the United States team, competitors had to place in
26 the top three in their division at The Battle of Atlanta where
27 Jonathan competed in three events: Traditional Kata, Weapons

28 Kata, and Sparring; he competed against 31 competitors from all
29 over the world in Traditional Katas, and he qualified for Team
30 America; and

31 WHEREAS, he is the only competitor from Mississippi and the
32 lone Mississippian on the United States team which is made up of
33 approximately 300 competitors from children to adults in all
34 divisions; 30 countries will be involved in the Millennium Games,
35 and Jonathan has been training heavily for the fast-approaching
36 event where he will be competing in Traditional Forms, Weapons
37 Forms, Musical Weapons Forms and Sparring; and

38 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the skill
39 and accomplishments of this young Mississippian, who has brought
40 honor to his family, his school, his community and to the State of
41 Mississippi:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
43 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Jonathan West of Brandon,
44 Mississippi, on his karate skills and congratulate him and wish
45 him continued success in representing the United States as the
46 only Mississippian on Team America at the World Organization of
47 Martial Arts Millennium Games in Sydney, Australia.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
49 presented to Jonathan West and his parents, Mickie and Tony West,
50 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.