

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Johnson (38th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 551

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MRS.
2 SHIRLEY WHEATLEY OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI, THE *BLUFF CITY POST*
3 "WOMAN OF THE YEAR."

4 WHEREAS, it is difficult to find a harder worker or more
5 dedicated person than Shirley Wheatley in Natchez, Mississippi;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, this explains her dedication: having come to
8 Natchez for what she thought would be a short stay, she realized
9 she would make Natchez home; and

10 WHEREAS, she became active in her new church home, Rose Hill
11 Missionary Baptist Church (Food PAC Program, Sunday School
12 Substitute Teacher, Vacation Bible School Teacher and the Annual
13 Fund Drive as Publicity Chairperson and later the 1998 Fund Drive
14 Chairperson and is presently the co-chair of the church library
15 committee); and

16 WHEREAS, she became a substitute teacher at Cathedral School
17 and Central School; volunteered with the Literary Festival
18 (usher), with the Opera Festival (ticket sales), with the Project
19 Southern Cross/Mostly African Market (greeter and grant writer)
20 and became the part-time Director of the Natchez-Community
21 Stewpot; and

22 WHEREAS, she has done volunteer work with Thelma White's
23 Missionary School and Carolyn Smith's After All Incorporated
24 programs and is a founding member of the Homochitto Neighborhood
25 Watch program; Institute in Learning in Retirement Co-Lin
26 Community College program; and one of the first members of the
27 Natchez Retired Partnership Group, presently liaison person with



28 this group for the City Office of Tourism Management and
29 Development; and

30 WHEREAS, she is a member of the National Council of Negro
31 Women (past secretary and presently vice president); the Rotary
32 Club; The Natchez Association for Preservation of Afro-American
33 Culture (past board member and secretary); the Chamber of Commerce
34 Unification Committee (served as co-chair 1999); and is a board
35 member of the Natchez Community Stewpot, also a member of the
36 Natchez Opera Festival and Little Theater; and

37 WHEREAS, she is a member of the District-Wide Title I
38 Committee for the Natchez-Adams County School District (serving on
39 the Evaluation Committee); volunteers for the Junior Achievement
40 Program at Northside School (now Frazier Elementary) each spring;
41 will complete her term on the Natchez HISTORIC Foundation Board in
42 February 2002 (having served as Education chairperson and
43 secretary); is currently a board member of the Mississippi
44 Heritage Trust, serving on the Advocacy Committee; has volunteered
45 to successfully write grants for several organizations, volunteer
46 with the TANF job placement office giving the individuals who
47 complete their job-training program mock interview experience and
48 is a grant reader for the Mississippi Arts Commission, volunteered
49 with the Natchez Middle School to be a judge during their Science
50 Fair; from 1997-1999, helped coordinate and host the Civil Rights
51 Connection youth group's visits from New York City to Natchez; and

52 WHEREAS, she is employed with the City of Natchez Office of
53 Tourism Management as Administrative Services Director and a
54 portion of that is as interim Director of the NAPAC Natchez Museum
55 of Afro American History and Culture, mentors high school work
56 program students and coordinates the Job Shadowing project; and

57 WHEREAS, she is from Springfield, Illinois, a mother of three
58 sons and the grandmother of three grandsons, is a graduate of St.
59 Louis, Missouri, University, St. Louis, Missouri, in Urban
60 Planning/Community Development; and



61 WHEREAS, Shirley was awarded one of the eleven Volunteers of
62 the Year Award recipients in 1997 for the Mississippi Economic
63 Development Awards from the Mississippi Economic Development
64 Council, received a Golden Volunteer Award from the J/C Penny
65 program and has received many other acknowledgments for her
66 contributions to the community; and

67 WHEREAS, because of her dedication and hard work to make the
68 Natchez Community a better place to live and work and her work
69 beyond the call of duty to make the NAPAC Museum a living example
70 of what it can and will be; and

71 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the civic
72 devotion of Mrs. Shirley Wheatley, who brings honor to her
73 community and to her state:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
75 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
76 we do hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Shirley Wheatley of
77 Natchez, Mississippi, the *Bluff City Post* "Woman of the Year" and
78 wish her continued success in her future civic and charitable
79 endeavors.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
81 presented to Mrs. Shirley Wheatley and her family, and be made
82 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

