SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 554

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DR. LARRY BOX, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE STARKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT, UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS SELECTION AS "SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR" FOR 2002 BY THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.

WHEREAS, Dr. Larry Box, Superintendent of the Starkville School District, has been selected "Superintendent of the Year" for 2002 by the Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA); and

WHEREAS, Dr. Box will represent Mississippi in the National Superintendent of the Year competition at the Annual Conference on Education sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators in San Diego, California, February 15-17, 2002, and the national winner will receive a $10,000.00 scholarship for his/her school; and

WHEREAS, this recognition is a result of Dr. Box's tireless efforts to improve schools and there is no doubt that his vision, personal characteristics, and skills have paved the way for a decade of significant accomplishments in the Starkville Schools; his success as a superintendent in this community is a significant story of a small town in the U.S. that provides a high quality, comprehensive education; and

WHEREAS, his vision, his leadership and character set the tone and pace for exceptional and significant academic results and accomplishments of the school district. He engages "stakeholders" in the district's planning process and thus creates an atmosphere and an environment for focused learning. This has resulted in a high quality, diverse curriculum which provides for continued growth in student performance on state tests. He encourages those
around him to embrace change, accept challenges, take risks and
solve problems in creative ways. High levels of parent and
community involvement, successful votes on bond issues and
consistent recognition of staff, programs and schools at state and
national levels attest to his successful efforts; and

WHEREAS, Box stated that early in life he knew he wanted to
be an educator. He earned his undergraduate and graduate degrees
at Mississippi State University. His career includes tenures as a
math teacher, principal and central office administrator. He
entered school administration with the goal of providing high
quality education opportunities for all children. His leadership
style is a mix of structure and consideration. Organizational
skills, vision and dealing with all individuals in a way that
tells them they are valued and important has contributed to his
successes. He enjoys being a part of the solution to problems;

WHEREAS, under Box's administration, the district's
accomplishments include: making National Board of Professional
Teaching Certification a priority, 34 teachers now hold national
certification; development of a partnership with the U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service, and funding and construction of the Noxubee
Conservation Education Center at the Noxubee Wildlife Refuge;
institution of a comprehensive approach to teaching reading that
has produced consistent growth and resulted in selection for
inclusion in a national Educational Television feature; produced
three Presidential Award for Math and Science Winners; created
Emerson Family School to serve adult education and preschool
programs; developed a Professional Development Center to provide
teacher-training programs and community education programs;
established a program to honor distinguished alumni; partnered
with the Starkville Foundation for Public Education to expand
scholarship offerings to graduating seniors; built a
nationally-recognized fine arts program; implemented a middle
school team teaching concept at Armstrong Middle School, resulting in the school's inclusion in development of a national model for middle schools; initiated and completed a district-wide building program using combined funding sources; and much more; and

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the achievement of this excellent public school administrator who has brought honor to his school, his community and to the State of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do here commend and congratulate Dr. Larry Box, Superintendent of the Starkville School District, upon the occasion of his selection as "Superintendent of the Year" for 2002 by the Mississippi Association of School Administrators (MASA), and wish him many successes in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to Dr. Box and his family, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.