

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Cuevas, Hewes

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 562

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MRS.
2 GERALDINE "GERRY" FOUNTAIN BLESSEY, RECIPIENT OF THE BLUE CROSS &
3 BLUE SHIELD MISSISSIPPI AGELESS HEROES AWARD FOR 2002.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Geraldine "Gerry" Fountain Blessey, of Biloxi,
5 Mississippi, was one of 24 truly remarkable Mississippians
6 receiving the Mississippi Ageless Heroes Award for 2002 by the
7 Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association; Mrs. Blessey's award was
8 in the category of Creativity; and

9 WHEREAS, the Ageless Heroes program was created by the Blue
10 Cross and Blue Shield Association in 1997 to celebrate the spirit
11 and vitality of our nation's seniors. Blue Cross & Blue Shield of
12 Mississippi has taken the program to the local level establishing
13 *Mississippi Ageless Heroes*, age 65 and over, who are nominated for
14 the award by their friends and families; regional and statewide
15 honorees are selected by independent judges in the categories of
16 Community Involvement, Creativity, Good Neighbor, Love of
17 Learning, New Beginnings and Vitality; they truly are role models
18 whose stories will inspire all who hear them; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Geraldine "Gerry" Fountain Blessey, 79, was
20 born and raised in east Biloxi, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry
21 F. Fountain, Sr., who were descendants of the Colonial French that
22 founded Biloxi. Her father was a master carpenter who built many
23 wooden schooners and luggers for the Biloxi fishing fleet; and

24 WHEREAS, she is the widow of Walter J. Blessey III, mother of
25 three children and grandmother of eight grandchildren. Mrs.
26 Blessey is an active parishioner of the Nativity B.V.M. Catholic
27 Church; and



28 WHEREAS, Mrs. Blessey attended Biloxi Public Schools, where
29 she excelled in Music. She began her career with the Peoples Bank
30 of Biloxi as a teller and rose through the ranks to become Vice
31 President and Head Bookkeeper of the bank, from which she retired
32 after 30 years; and

33 WHEREAS, generations to come may someday see Gerry Blessey's
34 determination as a blessing. By dedicating her creative energies
35 to historic preservation, Gerry has helped ensure that many of
36 Biloxi's most beloved landmarks will endure; and

37 WHEREAS, she has participated in the ongoing efforts to
38 restore the Old Brick House, built between 1790 and the early
39 1800's, which is now used by the Garden Clubs of Biloxi. She also
40 led petitioners and attended weekly city council meetings to plead
41 the merits of turning a four-acre site on U.S. 90 into a park.
42 The beautiful property, which features a stand of magnificent live
43 oaks still untouched by many hurricanes, will serve as a permanent
44 memorial to honor Biloxi's Tricentennial, as well as the site for
45 the new Ohr-Okeefe Museum; and

46 WHEREAS, a member of the Ohr-Okeefe Museum Board of Directors
47 and the Gulf Coast Symphony Guild, Gerry says she likes to do oil
48 painting in her spare time. But it's her involvement in civic
49 affairs that helps her stay active. "My approach to aging is to
50 think young and look to the future. And I stay involved with my
51 grandchildren"; and

52 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the civic
53 dedication and vitality of this Mississippian who is an
54 inspiration to all citizens, and reminds us all that our only
55 limitations are the ones we impose on ourselves:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Geraldine "Gerry"
59 Fountain Blessey, recipient of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of



60 Mississippi "Ageless Heroes Award" for 2002 in the category of
61 Creativity and wish her continued success in her future endeavors.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
63 presented to Mrs. Blessey and forwarded to the Biloxi City Council
64 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

