

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 21

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE VILLAGE OF
2 TAYLOR, MISSISSIPPI, AS THE WINNER OF THE 2002 GOVERNOR'S
3 EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS AWARD IN THE CATEGORY OF CIVIC LEADERSHIP
4 IN THE ARTS.

5 WHEREAS, in the red clay hills of Northern Mississippi, just
6 nine miles south of Oxford, sits the rural town of Taylor
7 (population 288); and

8 WHEREAS, at the turn of the 20th Century, Taylor thrived as a
9 train depot for the Illinois Central Railroad, but after a fire in
10 1910, the town was quieted; and

11 WHEREAS, Taylor was featured in a scene with Temple Drake in
12 *Sanctuary*, the William Faulkner novel; and

13 WHEREAS, by the turn of the 21st Century, Taylor might have
14 dropped off the map altogether had not a cluster of talented
15 artists made it their home: William Beckwith, in 1982, was the
16 first to open shop in Taylor. His statues brought distinction to
17 many high profile places, including the statue honoring the Ole
18 Miss students in the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment "the
19 University Greys" who fought in the Pickett/Pettigrew Charge at
20 the Battle of Gettysburg. Next came Obie Clark, whose top quality
21 raku pottery earned him a coveted spot in both *Art in Mississippi*
22 *1720-1980* and *The Mississippi Almanac*. Then came Jane Rule
23 Burdine, whose color photography documenting the Mississippi Delta
24 since the 1960's has found fame in museums, galleries and private
25 collections. Keith Stewart, a fourth generation potter whose
26 family recently won the Governor's Award for Excellence in the
27 Arts, brought prestige with his fine ceramics. In September 2000,
28 Marc Deloach and Christine Schultz opened a seven-room art



29 gallery, displaying Taylor artists such as Jim Daigle, a local
30 landscape painter from the Savannah College of Art and Design;
31 Delta State graduate Jared Spears, an accomplished stone carver;
32 Alice Hammell, a popular self-taught abstract painter, who married
33 Obie Clark and opened a studio shop in Taylor; Christine Schultz,
34 a national magazine writer and recipient of the Mississippi Arts
35 Commission's Literary Arts Fellowship; and Marc Deloach, a noted
36 furniture maker working with old cypress, featured on ETV; and

37 WHEREAS, Taylor is home to the world-famous Taylor Grocery &
38 Restaurant serving catfish to such noted persons as Jimmy Buffett
39 and William Styron; and

40 WHEREAS; tourists nationwide leave Taylor with first-rate art
41 and a story to tell about a place of people working together to
42 capture the offbeat beauty that is found in Mississippi; and

43 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
44 artistic contributions of Taylor, Mississippi, whose civic
45 dedication brings honor to its citizens and to the State of
46 Mississippi:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
48 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the
49 Village of Taylor, Mississippi, as the Winner of the 2002
50 Governor's Excellence in the Arts Award in the Category of Civic
51 Leadership in the Arts, and wish its citizens continued success in
52 their future endeavors.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
54 the Mayor of Taylor at induction ceremonies in February 2002, in
55 Jackson, Mississippi, and be made available to the Capitol Press
56 Corps.

