

By: Senator(s) Hewes

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MRS. RUBY MORTON
2 OF GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, RECIPIENT OF THE GOODWILL INDUSTRIES
3 INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

4 WHEREAS, Gulfport, Mississippi resident Ruby Morton, age 75,
5 the Receptionist/Telephone Operator/Supervisor of Collection
6 Personnel for Goodwill Industries of South Mississippi, Inc., has
7 been chosen "Achiever of the Year 2002" by Goodwill Industries,
8 International, a not-for-profit organization of over 200 member
9 goodwills; and

10 WHEREAS, Goodwill International, including over 250
11 organizations worldwide providing an array of services, is
12 celebrating its 100th Anniversary with Centennial celebrations
13 throughout the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Goodwill of South Mississippi has been serving the
15 community for 27 years, its mission: to provide jobs and job
16 training to people with disabilities and other barriers to
17 employment; and

18 WHEREAS, Goodwill International generated about Two Billion
19 Dollars of revenue in the year 2000 and served almost 500,000
20 people with disabilities and other barriers to employment in the
21 same year, through job training, placement, procurement and
22 related services; and

23 WHEREAS, out of all the current employees of Goodwill
24 throughout the world, Ruby Morton was selected as the outstanding
25 example in the Goodwill family of a person exemplifying the
26 Goodwill's goals of maximum self-sufficiency, the dignity of work
27 and concern for others; and



28 WHEREAS, Ruby, the mother of four children under five years
29 of age, was accidentally blinded by a gunshot wound when she was
30 22 years old. She successfully raised these four children, and
31 four more, born after her blindness, into mature, responsible and
32 successful adults; and

33 WHEREAS, Ruby, at age 64, when most people are looking for
34 retirement, determined she must change her life, go in a different
35 direction and become involved again; and

36 WHEREAS, Ruby sought employment at Goodwill Industries of
37 South Mississippi. First she answered the phone a few days a
38 week, then she took over the complete telephone operation, a
39 multi-line phone and computer system. She then assumed additional
40 duties of Goodwill Receptionist and Supervisor of Collection
41 Personnel for South Mississippi Goodwill. And finally she
42 undertook public relations duties (speaking engagements, mail outs
43 and other community or outreach activities). You might say she
44 had a full-time job; and

45 WHEREAS, Ruby is recognized as a role model on the job and
46 across the entire community. She was chosen by the Girl Scouts of
47 the Mississippi Gulf Coast as their exemplar for the Girl Scouts
48 "Make a Difference Day"; and

49 WHEREAS, in 2001, she was chosen by the Alabama/Mississippi
50 Olympic Torch Committee to carry the Olympic Flame along the
51 Coast; and

52 WHEREAS, perhaps this last honor best illustrates the reason
53 Ruby Morton was selected as the Goodwill Achiever of the Year
54 during this Goodwill Centennial Year. She has the attributes of
55 character, determination and self-help that Goodwill hopes to
56 instill in people, and she has them in Olympic proportions. She
57 indeed deserves the Gold Medal; and

58 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this award
59 to a fellow Mississippian who has brought honor to her community
60 and to the State of Mississippi:



61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
62 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Mrs. Ruby
63 Morton of Gulfport, Mississippi, recipient of the Goodwill
64 Industries International Achiever of the Year Award for 2001-2002,
65 and wish her continued success in her future civic and charitable
66 endeavors.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
68 Mrs. Morton and her family and representatives of Goodwill
69 Industries, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

