

By: Senator(s) Farris, King, Harvey

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 41

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING STAR WALLIN, A
2 SENIOR AT HATTIESBURG HIGH SCHOOL, FOR RECEIVING THE PRUDENTIAL
3 SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY TOP YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD FOR 2002.

4 WHEREAS, Star Wallin, 17, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi has
5 been named Mississippi's Top Youth Volunteer for 2002 by The
6 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, a nationwide program
7 honoring young people for outstanding acts of volunteerism. The
8 awards program, now in its seventh year, is conducted by
9 Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association
10 of Secondary School Principals (NASSP); a record 28,000 high
11 school and middle level students submitted applications for this
12 year's program; and

13 WHEREAS, Star was nominated by Hattiesburg High School in
14 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and as State Honoree she will receive
15 \$1,000.00, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense-paid
16 trip in May to Washington, D.C., where she will join the top two
17 honorees--one middle level and one high school youth--from each of
18 the other states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico for
19 several days of national recognition events; ten of the students
20 will be named America's Top Youth Volunteers for 2002 at that
21 time; and

22 WHEREAS, Star, a Senior at Hattiesburg High School, founded
23 and directs Project CARE, an organization that has mobilized
24 nearly 100 teenagers to assist homeless and hungry families, save
25 abused animals, and address other community needs. Project CARE
26 ("Compassion in Action creates a Ripple Effect") recruits
27 volunteers, raises money, in partership with state and local



28 agencies. For needy families, Star's organization has provided
29 meals, transportation and assistance in finding housing, jobs and
30 childcare. In response to her concern about neglected and
31 homeless pets, she has raised nearly \$10,000.00 for a local animal
32 shelter, developed programs to prevent overpopulation, and
33 personally cared for and found homes for more than 60 dogs and
34 cats. Other projects have included finding high school mentors
35 for 200 elementary school children and beautifying the grounds of
36 her high school; and

37 WHEREAS, the recipients of this award are extraordinary young
38 people who exemplify the spirit of community that is critical to
39 keeping America strong in the face of the challenges that confront
40 them today; and

41 WHEREAS, all public and private middle level and high schools
42 in the country, along with all Girl Scout councils and county 4-H
43 organizations, are eligible to select a student or member for a
44 local Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Local Honorees are
45 then reviewed by state-level judges, who select State Honorees and
46 Distinguished Finalists based on criteria such as personal
47 initiative, creativity, effort, impact and personal growth; and

48 WHEREAS, on May 6, 2002, ten of the 104 State Honorees--five
49 middle level and five high school students--will be named
50 America's Top Ten Youth Volunteers of the Year by a prestigious
51 national selection committee. These National Honorees will
52 receive an additional \$5,000.00, a gold medallion, and a crystal
53 trophy. In addition, the ten National Honorees will have a total
54 of \$250,000.00 in children's products donated in their names to
55 needy children in their communities by the National Charity of the
56 Children Products Industry; and

57 WHEREAS, the awards are part of a broad initiative created by
58 Prudential to encourage young people to become involved in a
59 community service. Other elements of the initiative include The
60 Prudential Youth Leadership Institute, a community leadership



61 training program for high school students, and a variety of
62 educational materials for young people and teachers relating to
63 youth volunteerism; and

64 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
65 community spirit of this talented young Mississippian, who has
66 brought honor to her school, her community and to the State of
67 Mississippi:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
69 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Star
70 Wallin, a Senior at Hattiesburg High School, for receiving the
71 Prudential Spirit of Community Top Youth Volunteer Award for 2002,
72 and wish her success in the national competition to be held in
73 May, and in her future endeavors.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
75 Star Wallin and her family, be forwarded to the Principal of
76 Hattiesburg High School, and be made available to the Capitol
77 Press Corps.

