

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING TYLER SKELTON OF  
2 MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE "STRAIGHT FROM THE  
3 HEART" AWARD FROM THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A HEALTHY MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, because of his tireless efforts, Tyler Skelton, a  
5 native of Meridian, Mississippi, and Senior at West Lauderdale  
6 High School, received the "Straight From the Heart" Award from The  
7 Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, Attorney General Mike Moore presented the award  
9 during The Partnership's annual community awards luncheon on  
10 January 13, 2003; and

11 WHEREAS, Tyler was selected to be the first recipient of  
12 the award because of his commitment to making change in his  
13 community and statewide; he sets an example for others to follow  
14 and has dedicated himself to making a difference in the lives of  
15 all Mississippians; and

16 WHEREAS, Tyler is a member of the National Honor Society,  
17 Christian Fellowship Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes,  
18 Student Council Representative and active member of The  
19 Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1998, The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi  
21 went across the state looking for young people who would be  
22 interested in becoming spokespeople for tobacco prevention.  
23 Auditions were conducted at malls around the state. One  
24 particular 13-year-old heard the promos, and begged his Mom to  
25 take him to audition. Tyler showed up as the auditions were  
26 closing for the day, and he pleaded to be allowed to try out. He  
27 shared his personal story of having lost his father to tobacco use



28 when Tyler was only five years old. Almost 1,000 young people  
29 tried out that day, but this one applicant stood out above all.  
30 He was only 13 years old, but his conviction and passion would  
31 inspire a movement; and

32 WHEREAS, as a founding member of the Frontline program and  
33 the longest-serving state board member, Tyler has played an  
34 integral role in shaping the youth movement that is changing the  
35 culture of health in Mississippi. He has toured the state and the  
36 nation to share his touching story of how he lost his father to  
37 tobacco-related lung cancer. He transforms his personal loss into  
38 passion and empowers young people to take charge to prevent this  
39 from happening to others. Tyler has testified before city and  
40 state lawmakers in an effort to make important policy changes; and

41 WHEREAS, in 2001, Tyler took it upon himself to educate his  
42 home county about the dangers of secondhand smoke. He petitioned  
43 the Lauderdale County Board of Supervisors to make the County  
44 Courthouse smoke-free. As a result of his efforts, they  
45 implemented a smoke-free policy for all county-owned buildings and  
46 vehicles; and

47 WHEREAS, Tyler has worked with The Partnership for a Healthy  
48 Mississippi since its inception. Tyler's passion is personal and  
49 intense. He expects and demands that those working with him have  
50 that same intensity; and

51 WHEREAS, Tyler Skelton is a young man that Mississippi is  
52 proud to claim as its own:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
54 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
55 we do hereby commend and congratulate Tyler Skelton of Meridian,  
56 Mississippi, as the first recipient of the "Straight From the  
57 Heart" Award from The Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi, and  
58 extend to him and his family the best wishes of the Mississippi  
59 Senate for this honor and in his future endeavors.



60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
61 Tyler Skelton and his family, be forwarded to Attorney General  
62 Mike Moore and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

