

By: Senator(s) Johnson (19th), Cuevas, Lee, Dawkins, Hewes

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 29

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF SENATOR THOMAS  
2 ARLIN "TOMMY" GOLLOTT AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON HIS RECEIPT OF  
3 THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE.

4 WHEREAS, the recipient of the Mississippi Senate Award for  
5 Distinguished Public Service at the 15th Annual Mississippi Senate  
6 Grand Reunion is Senator Thomas Arlin "Tommy" Gollott; and

7 WHEREAS, Senator "Tommy" Gollott began his public service  
8 when he was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in  
9 1967, where he served from 1968-1980; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator "Tommy" Gollott was elected to the  
11 Mississippi Senate in 1979, where he has continued to serve since  
12 his election; and

13 WHEREAS, Senator Gollott is in his 36th consecutive year of  
14 legislative service; and

15 WHEREAS, throughout his career, he has chaired numerous  
16 committees and served as President Pro Tempore of the Mississippi  
17 Senate from 1996-2000; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Gollott authored and was instrumental in  
19 passing legislation that built the Gulf Coast Coliseum and  
20 Convention Center and the South Mississippi Retardation Center in  
21 Long Beach; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Gollott is known for being the proponent of  
23 innovative legislation; and

24 WHEREAS, while in the House, he authored the bill that  
25 enabled the purchase and preservation of 35,000 acres of the  
26 Pascagoula River System, the largest free-flowing river system in  
27 the lower 48 states; and



28           WHEREAS, his common-sense legislation that resolved the  
29 public trust tidelands dispute was the catalyst for economic  
30 development on the Gulf Coast; and

31           WHEREAS, his far-sighted legislation authorizing the gaming  
32 industry on the coast gave rise to a vibrant tourism industry and  
33 an economic boom to the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and

34           WHEREAS, he also authored legislation conserving the Gulf  
35 Coast marine resource by creating the Mississippi Department of  
36 Marine Resources and establishing the Public Trust Tideland Fund;  
37 and

38           WHEREAS, his dedicated service to the youth of his community  
39 began in 1956 when he and his friend, Cyril Hopkins, organized the  
40 "Happy Days Youth Club" for boys of all ages; and

41           WHEREAS, this was the beginning of the fulfillment of his  
42 dream, to build a Biloxi Boys Club; and

43           WHEREAS, in 1966, Tommy Gollott realized his dream when he  
44 organized the first Boys Club in Biloxi, which has grown to be the  
45 "Boys and Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast" consisting of five local  
46 clubs and an activity center serving over 25,000 children in 2002;  
47 and

48           WHEREAS, since the organization of these clubs, Tommy has  
49 continuously served in various positions; and

50           WHEREAS, Tommy's devoted concern for the handicapped and  
51 mentally retarded led him to be the primary organizer and first  
52 President of the "Cheshire Home of Harrison County, Inc.," a group  
53 home for the developmentally disabled; and

54           WHEREAS, Tommy served as President of "Cheshire Home of  
55 Harrison County" for 15 consecutive years and still remains active  
56 on the Board of Directors; and

57           WHEREAS, Tommy was the founder and first President of the  
58 "Arts Fair for the Handicapped"; and



59 WHEREAS, acting on his compassionate concern for victims of  
60 Hurricane Betsy in Louisiana, Tommy donated 17 truckloads of food,  
61 clothing and water, and he made each delivery himself; and

62 WHEREAS, in 1965, the Jaycees awarded him its highest honor,  
63 "The Distinguished Service Award"; and

64 WHEREAS, numerous national, state and community organizations  
65 have recognized his untiring service with awards including the  
66 Boys and Girls Club of America "Gold Medallion Award"; "Service to  
67 Youth Award" for 25 years of devoted service; the prestigious  
68 "Norman E. Bass Award"; "Outstanding Service Award" from the  
69 University of Southern Mississippi Alumni Association;

70 "Outstanding Citizen Award" from the Lions Club; "Outstanding  
71 Citizen of the Year" from the Gulf Coast Hotel-Motel Association  
72 of Mississippi; "Legislator of the Year" from the American  
73 Association on Mental Retardation, Mississippi Chapter; and

74 WHEREAS, recognition of his tireless service to his fellow  
75 man culminated with November 18, 1993, being declared "Tommy  
76 Gollott Day" with a reception honoring Tommy held at the  
77 Mississippi Gulf Coast Coliseum and Convention Center; and

78 WHEREAS, Tommy's roots run deep in the history of the Gulf  
79 Coast with his ancestors being pioneers in the seafood and moving  
80 industries; and

81 WHEREAS, Tommy is a native of Harrison County and the son of  
82 the late Houston C. Gollott and the late Ida Quave Gollott; and

83 WHEREAS, Tommy is married to the former Zelma Jackson of  
84 Biloxi, and they have three daughters: Tanya G. Swoope, Lisa G.  
85 Lane and Jennifer G. Burke; and

86 WHEREAS, Tommy and Zelma are the proud grandparents of seven  
87 grandchildren, four granddaughters: Ashton Lane, Anna Kate Burke,  
88 Reagan Burke and Mallory Burke; and three grandsons: Patrick J.  
89 Lyons, Thomas A Lyons and Tyler Lane; and

90 WHEREAS, it is with pride and admiration that we recognize  
91 the compassion and commitment of this dedicated public servant and



92 citizen whose love for the youth of this state, whose devotion to  
93 the handicapped and mentally retarded, whose generosity to the  
94 poor and underprivileged, whose conscientious stewardship of the  
95 public trust and the giving of his time, talents and wealth for  
96 the betterment of his fellow man has brought honor and respect to  
97 the Senate and the State of Mississippi:

98         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
99 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the distinguished public  
100 service of Senator Thomas Arlin "Tommy" Gollott of Biloxi,  
101 Mississippi, and congratulate him upon his receipt of the  
102 Mississippi Senator Award for Distinguished Public Service.

103         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
104 presented to Senator Tommy Gollott and his family at the occasion  
105 of the 15th Annual Mississippi Grand Reunion held on February 20,  
106 2003, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

