

By: Senator(s) Gordon

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING SISTER ELIZABETH  
2 BROWN OF OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI, UPON HER RECEIPT OF THE 2003  
3 GOVERNOR'S INITIATIVE FOR VOLUNTEER EXCELLENCE (GIVE) AWARD IN THE  
4 CATEGORY OF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT.

5 WHEREAS, Sister Elizabeth Brown, credited for rebuilding a  
6 congregation in Okolona, Mississippi, has been recognized for her  
7 work by receiving the Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award from  
8 the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service, at the 2003  
9 Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Awards; and

10 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Commission for Volunteer Service  
11 established the Awards in 1993 to recognize the "power of  
12 volunteers" and the difference they provide to their communities;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, in 1985, Elizabeth Brown known as Sister Liz, joined  
15 St. Theresa Catholic Church in Okolona, Mississippi, a Chickasaw  
16 County city of about 3,000 residents. She knitted together a  
17 broad coalition of community support, building up a congregation  
18 that was on the decline in a community divided; and

19 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Brown bridges age and race, she engages  
20 literally hundreds of people every year in responding to community  
21 needs; and

22 WHEREAS, for example, when there was need for a new community  
23 center, Brown galvanized the community, resulting in commitments  
24 from volunteers to refurbish the old Miskelly Furniture site.  
25 Brown was in the thick of construction, hammering nails, hanging  
26 sheetrock and pouring concrete. The center now houses EXCEL Inc.,  
27 or Enrichment and Excellence through Community Educational



28 Leadership, a nonprofit service organization which provides  
29 programming for the young and old, also led by volunteers; and

30 WHEREAS, she has a strong belief that a community can solve  
31 its challenges if people work together, working together across  
32 economic, racial and religious lines; and

33 WHEREAS, this award by the Mississippi Commission for  
34 Volunteer Service recognizes volunteers who give every other day  
35 of the year and quietly make our world better; and

36 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this  
37 citizen who believes that a community can solve its challenges if  
38 people work together, and has thereby brought honor to her  
39 community and to the State of Mississippi:

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
41 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Sister  
42 Elizabeth Brown of Okolona, Mississippi, upon her receipt of the  
43 2003 Governor's Initiative for Volunteer Excellence (GIVE) Award  
44 in the Category of Lifetime Achievement, and extend to her and her  
45 family and co-volunteers the best wishes of the Senate on her  
46 future public service projects and endeavors.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to  
48 the Commission on Volunteer Service for presentation to Sister  
49 Brown and her family and be made available to the Capitol Press  
50 Corps.

