

By: Senator(s) Butler, Dearing

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 537

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MCCOMB
2 HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR, KASIE BETH ECKMAN, UPON BEING NAMED THE 2004
3 WINNER OF THE PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD FOR
4 MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, Kasie Beth Eckman, a McComb High School Junior, who
6 developed a program to teach children ways to avoid being
7 abducted, has been named one of the state's top youth volunteers
8 this year, winning the Mississippi Prudential Spirit of Community
9 Award; and

10 WHEREAS, Kasie's award was very timely, being announced on
11 February 3, 2004, the same day the nation watched a videotape
12 showing the weekend abduction of a Florida girl; and

13 WHEREAS, Eckman was one of 20,000 students who entered the
14 contest for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards; she will go
15 to Washington, D.C., in May to compete with volunteers across the
16 country; and

17 WHEREAS, national child kidnapping cases led Eckman to
18 initiate her program, "Smart Thinking in Courageous Kids." The
19 program, which she calls STICK, teaches elementary school children
20 to avoid strangers who might harm them; and

21 WHEREAS, Eckman, who was nominated by the Girl Scouts Council
22 of Middle Mississippi in Jackson, enlisted assistance from her
23 fellow Girl Scouts and group leader and friends to develop a
24 three-session program. The program includes stranger safety tips
25 called the Triple T's - take three steps back, turn and run, and
26 tell someone you trust. Eckman also made up a song using the tune
27 from *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*; and

28 WHEREAS, Eckman organized help from about 25 volunteers to
29 teach the program. So far, about 1,300 McComb school children
30 have participated; and

31 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
32 special accomplishment of a student whose community spirit and
33 service is a model for all young Mississippians:

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
35 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
36 we do hereby commend and congratulate McComb High School Junior,
37 Kasie Beth Eckman, upon being named the winner of the 2004
38 Prudential Spirit of Community Award for Mississippi, and extend
39 to her the best wishes of the Legislature for success in her
40 future competition and in her academic career.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
42 Kasie and her parents, and be made available to the Principal of
43 McComb High School and members of the Capitol Press Corps.