

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Simmons, Dawkins,  
Hewes

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 23

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING RADIO  
2 STATION WJZD (JZ 94.5) IN GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, THE ONLY  
3 AFRICAN-AMERICAN OWNED FM STATION ON THE GULF COAST, ON THE  
4 OCCASION OF ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY.

5 WHEREAS, WJZD (JZ94.5) is the only African-American owned FM  
6 station on the Gulf Coast in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, it is one of only three stand alone locally-owned FM  
9 stations on the Coast; and

10 WHEREAS, WJZD prides itself on ten years of community  
11 service; and

12 WHEREAS, over the last ten years WJZD has registered  
13 approximately 10,000 new voters. In 1999, when the little town of  
14 Princeville, North Carolina, said to be the oldest town in the  
15 country chartered by African Americans, was flooded by Hurricane  
16 Floyd, WJZD started a drive to collect food, water, clothing and  
17 over \$3,000 and sent a tractor trailer full of goods to help.  
18 When Ada Mason, mother of two with family ties to the coast, was  
19 killed in the 9/11 tragedy at the Pentagon, WJZD raised several  
20 thousand dollars to help her children. When Sergeant Vanessa  
21 Turner returned to this country from Iraq, injured and homeless,  
22 WJZD listeners raised over \$5,000.00 to assist her and her  
23 daughter. In the past decade, WJZD has participated in blood  
24 drives and health fairs, given gas away to ease the crunch of  
25 rising gas prices, collected items to send to our troops in Iraq,  
26 helped purchase championship rings and jackets for the Gulfport  
27 High School Basketball Team; and

28           WHEREAS, the station has won numerous awards from state and  
29 local organizations for its work in the community; and

30           WHEREAS, to commemorate the anniversary WJZD plans an entire  
31 weekend of celebrations. The celebration begins April 9th with  
32 the nationally-syndicated Tom Joyner Sky Show at the Beau Rivage  
33 Resort and Casino in Biloxi, Mississippi. "It's A New Day," the  
34 coast number one talk show which airs on WJZD weekdays, will have  
35 a live broadcast and an anniversary brunch at the Beau Rivage  
36 Resort and Casino. On Saturday, the Annual Keepers of the Pledge  
37 Commemoration of the Native Guard in Jones Park in Gulfport will  
38 be followed by the Ride of the Buffalo Soldiers with Tom Joyner  
39 serving as Grand Marshall, and the long awaited anniversary  
40 concert with Ron Isley and the Isley Brothers. On Easter Sunday,  
41 Jones Park ends the weekend celebration with an Easter Egg Hunt  
42 WJZD style; and

43           WHEREAS, it is with great pleasure that we recognize the 10th  
44 Anniversary of this groundbreaking radio station, which, through  
45 its community and charitable service, has brought honor to the  
46 State of Mississippi:

47           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
48 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Radio  
49 Station WJZD (JZ 94.5) in Gulfport, Mississippi, the only  
50 African-American owned FM Station on the Mississippi Gulf Coast,  
51 on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary, and extend to the owners  
52 and managers of this station the best wishes of the Legislature on  
53 their future success.

54           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
55 the owners and managers of Radio Station WJZD and be made  
56 available to the Capitol Press Corps.