

By: Senator(s) Cuevas

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING SAINT STANISLAUS
2 COLLEGE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL (150TH)
3 CELEBRATION.

4 WHEREAS, Saint Stanislaus College, a Catholic residency and
5 day school for boys in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, is
6 celebrating the school's Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary; and

7 WHEREAS, since 1854, Saint Stanislaus College has been
8 witness to the success of over 10,000 students. As an emphasis on
9 holistic education and the character development of its students
10 have been hallmarks of the school for one hundred fifty years; and

11 WHEREAS, Father Stanislaus Buteaux, Pastor of Our Lady of the
12 Gulf Parish in the 1850s, envisioned a school for the boys of his
13 parish. In June, 1954, his dreams finally began to take shape
14 with the arrival of three Brothers of the Sacred Heart. When four
15 more Brothers arrived the following year, property was purchased
16 and the first school building of what was then known as Saint
17 Stanislaus Academy was erected; and

18 WHEREAS, The school flourished in spite of many hardships it
19 faced during the first fifteen years of its existence, including
20 the outbreak of the Civil War. Immediately following the
21 resolution of that conflict, the school was beset by the yellow
22 fever epidemic of 1867, and finished that year bankrupt; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1870, Saint Stanislaus College received a charter
24 from the State of Mississippi which empowered the school to offer
25 commercial college degrees. Around the same time, railroad tracks
26 linking Bay Saint Louis to New Orleans and Mobile were completed.
27 Throughout the 1880s and 1890s, the school participated in

28 exhibitions in Paris and Chicago. During the same era, the first
29 athletic teams were beginning to develop at the school, with
30 interscholastic competition in baseball beginning in 1903; and

31 WHEREAS, 1903 brought other changes as well, including a
32 devastating fire that destroyed nearly every building on campus.
33 The alumni were rallied and money raised to assist in the \$52,000
34 cost of reconstruction. The 1900s also saw an influx of foreign
35 students, particularly from Central America and Cuba; and

36 WHEREAS, in 1914, the school constructed a gymnasium for the
37 basketball team. By the end of the decade, the school, and the
38 name Rockachaws, had exploded on the sports scene as basketball,
39 football, cross country, tennis, track and field and gymnastics
40 had all joined baseball in the realm of interscholastic sports.
41 Much of the school's athletic success was owed to the legendary
42 Coach Foster Commagere, who coached every sport and had
43 championship teams in each, as well as Brother Peter Basso, who
44 served as Athletic Director at the time and was later named
45 President of the college; and

46 WHEREAS, in 1923, Saint Stanislaus dropped the commercial
47 college curriculum to concentrate on the formation of young men in
48 preparation for advanced studies at four-year colleges. Brother
49 Peter was named President in 1926 and traveled the country giving
50 talks on "Boyology" and the psychology of adolescent males; and

51 WHEREAS, in 1928, Camp Stanislaus was started to provide some
52 fun in the summer for boys aged 8 to 14 and to promote character
53 formation. Activities included archery, rifles, fishing, skiing,
54 swimming, sailing and tennis and each day started with a character
55 formation talk. Physical changes to the campus included the
56 construction of a chapel in 1930, the building of a new dining
57 hall in 1946 and a two-story pier in 1948. In 1959, the infirmary
58 building (now Brothers' Residence) was added and, in 1966, the
59 dormitory building - Aurelian Hall - was constructed; and

60 WHEREAS, in 1969, the school was once more struck with
61 calamity as Hurricane Camille, the strongest hurricane on record
62 to strike the U.S. mainland, chose to make that strike over the
63 Bay of St. Louis. Extensive damage ensued, but the opening of
64 school was delayed only two weeks, and Saint Stanislaus served as
65 a refugee center for over seventy Bay Saint Louis residents
66 rendered homeless by the storm. Once again the school was rebuilt
67 and improved. A junior Olympic swimming pool was constructed in
68 1970 and the present school building was completed in 1972, and
69 1977 saw the construction of the Brother Peter Gymnasium; and

70 WHEREAS, the school continued to grow and adapt as the
71 Twentieth Century gave way to the Twenty-first. Older resident
72 students' rooms were wired for Internet and telephone access in
73 1999, and the school has made strides in using technology to stay
74 in touch with parents, as well as alumni, living throughout the
75 world. The latest addition to the school, a \$2.6 Million Fitness
76 Center and practice gymnasium, was completed in January, 2003; and

77 WHEREAS, Saint Stanislaus has endured many hardships since it
78 opened its doors in 1854. In spite of the trials that the decades
79 have brought, the school has realized many successes and blessings
80 and looks forward to the challenges which are to come; and it is
81 with pride that we recognize this landmark event in the history of
82 an enduring institution:

83 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
84 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Saint
85 Stanislaus College on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial (150th)
86 celebration which ends on May 8, 2004, and extend to the
87 administration of the college the best wishes of the Senate on the
88 future of this well-known school.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
90 the Dean of Saint Stanislaus College and be made available to the
91 Capitol Press Corps.