

By: Representatives Akins, Gadd, Jennings,  
McBride, Pierce, Rogers (14th), Brown,  
Barnett

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE  
2 VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JIM BARKSDALE AND THE BARKSDALE READING  
3 INSTITUTE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Mississippi native Jim Barksdale and his late wife,  
5 Mississippi native Sally Barksdale, established the Barksdale  
6 Reading Institute in January 2000, with an endowment of \$100  
7 million; and

8 WHEREAS, this endowment, which is the largest private  
9 investment in literacy in the nation's history, is designed to  
10 improve the reading scores of Mississippi's public school  
11 children before they leave the third grade; and

12 WHEREAS, a highly successful businessman, having served as  
13 chief operating officer of FedEx Corporation, chief executive  
14 officer of AT&T Wireless Corporation and president and chief  
15 operating officer of Netscape Communications, Jim Barksdale, who  
16 received his B.A. in business administration from the University  
17 of Mississippi, currently serves on the boards of several major  
18 companies across the country, including FedEx, Mayo Clinic and  
19 Sun Microsystems; and

20 WHEREAS, after witnessing the successes of reading reform  
21 programs in Texas and the "Success for All" programs in Baltimore,  
22 Maryland, the Barksdales became convinced that such programs could  
23 have a meaningful impact on the reading skills of children  
24 nationwide; and

25 WHEREAS, a joint venture with the University of Mississippi  
26 School of Education, the Mississippi Department of Education and  
27 the state's seven other public university schools of education,

28 the institute is designed to dramatically improve the reading  
29 skills of children through a systematic and direct implementation  
30 of a research-based reading reform model; and

31 WHEREAS, recognizing that every child needs to be able to  
32 read proficiently to be both an economically and socially  
33 productive member of society, the Barksdales' gift has made it  
34 possible for Mississippi's public schools, colleges and  
35 universities to come together to implement systematic reform in  
36 teaching schoolchildren to read; and

37 WHEREAS, because of the visionary efforts of Jim and Sally,  
38 Barksdale Reading Institute currently works in 70 schools around  
39 the state and, since its inception, has worked with over  
40 50,000 children, some 3,000 teachers in Mississippi and has  
41 expended over \$30 million on teacher training, provision of  
42 tutors, books and other materials, parent outreach,  
43 prekindergarten efforts, after-school programs, literacy research  
44 and other literacy-related efforts; and

45 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this  
46 information mogul and philanthropist whose impeccable desire for  
47 educational achievement has garnered him great distinction as the  
48 literacy ambassador for the State of Mississippi:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
50 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
51 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the valuable contributions of  
52 Jim Barksdale and the Barksdale Reading Institute to the State of  
53 Mississippi and extend our wishes for continued future success.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
55 furnished to Jim Barksdale, the Barksdale Reading Institute and to  
56 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.