

By: Senator(s) Walley

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 525

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING BEVERLY JANET SMITH FOR
2 HER 33 YEARS AS MANAGER OF THE LUCEDALE/GEORGE COUNTY PUBLIC
3 LIBRARY AND HER DEDICATION TO IMPROVING PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES TO
4 THE CITIZENS OF GEORGE COUNTY AND JACKSON COUNTY, AND
5 CONGRATULATING HER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT.

6 WHEREAS, Beverly Janet Smith has served as Librarian of the
7 Lucedale/George County Public Library since 1971. Her last day
8 was January 28, 2005, at which time the staff sponsored a
9 retirement celebration for her; and

10 WHEREAS, Janet grew up in Mt. Olive, Mississippi, where she
11 graduated in 1967 as the class Valedictorian. She is the daughter
12 of Ralph and Merle Delk Easterling. She has three siblings, June,
13 Dwight and Randy; and

14 WHEREAS, in the sixth grade an aunt suggested that Janet
15 might want to be a librarian. In the seventh grade she began
16 volunteering in the high school library. After graduation from
17 high school, Janet enrolled at Jones Junior College in 1967 and
18 graduated in 1968 with an Associate Degree. In the Fall of 1968
19 Janet entered the School of Library Science at the University of
20 Southern Mississippi; and

21 WHEREAS, while attending the USM she met and became engaged
22 to Richard Smith. During Janet's junior/senior year, she worked
23 at the Clarksdale Public Library as a summer intern for the
24 Mississippi Library Commission. Her last semester at USM was
25 spent student teaching Library Science at Thames Junior High
26 School. After graduating, Janet worked at the Petal High School
27 Library while Richard finished his education with a degree in

28 Geography. They lived in Petal, Mississippi, their first year of
29 married life; and

30 WHEREAS, Janet began her position at the George County Public
31 Library June 9, 1971, the facility's first librarian to hold a
32 university degree in Library Science. The first month of
33 circulation went from 300 to 1500 and grew continuously through
34 the years. In 1972, Janet worked with others in the community to
35 start the Friends of the Library group; and

36 WHEREAS, during National Library Week in 1973 her only child,
37 Brandy, was born. Planning for the new library began in 1975.
38 With state revenue funds the new library opened in April of 1976.
39 In 1977, Janet entered Graduate School at USM in Library Science
40 and graduated 18 months later with her Master of Library Science
41 Degree; and

42 WHEREAS, in 1991, Janet helped Dana Nelson start the first
43 "Shakespeare in the Park." Also that year the Lucedale/George
44 County Library won a National Public Relations Award for Janet's
45 idea, "The Little Library That Could." In 1999, Janet received
46 the George County Business Woman of the Year Award; and

47 WHEREAS, in her professional life, Janet has had the chance
48 to hold Isacc Asminov's glass, ride the same elevator and talk
49 with John Grisham, speak with Morgan Freeman, and have her picture
50 made with many authors. Jerry Clower held a radio telethon to
51 help raise money for the new library. Janet received her first
52 autographed book, written by Lois Lenski, whose works inspired her
53 to many years of service to the public at the library; and

54 WHEREAS, the story of the Lucedale/George County Public
55 Library is a story of struggle and success with many firsts, both
56 locally and statewide, marking its long history; and

57 WHEREAS, Janet plans to spend her retirement with her
58 granddaughters: Claire, age 7, and Anna, age 3, her daughter,
59 mother, sister and friends. She has committed a lot of her time

60 to updating the Easterling Society Book, travel to Scotland and
61 organizing a George County Historical Society; and

62 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we note the dedicated
63 community spirit and professionalism of this Mississippi citizen
64 who has brought honor to her community and to her state:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
66 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
67 we do hereby commend Beverly "Janet" Smith for her thirty-three
68 years as Manager of the Lucedale/George County Public Library and
69 her dedication to improving public library services to the
70 citizens of George County and Jackson County, Mississippi, and
71 congratulate her on the occasion of her retirement.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
73 Janet Smith and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.