

By: Senator(s) Thomas, Jordan, Harden,
Walls, Simmons, Horhn, Frazier, Jackson
(11th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 581

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 CONGRESSMAN BENNIE THOMPSON (D-MS) UPON HIS RECENT APPOINTMENT AS
3 THE RANKING MEMBER OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY BY
4 THE HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

5 WHEREAS, on January 5, 2005, Congressman Bennie Thompson
6 (D-MS) was named by the House Democratic Caucus as the Ranking
7 Member of the now-permanent House Homeland Security Committee for
8 the 109th Congress; and

9 WHEREAS, as the top Democrat on the Committee, Congressman
10 Thompson is responsible for solving the most important issues
11 affecting homeland security and aggressively pursuing the
12 Committee's oversight responsibilities; and

13 WHEREAS, Congressman Thompson is uniquely qualified to
14 understand the preparedness and equipment needs of the nation's
15 first responders because he has served as a fire fighter himself.
16 As Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness
17 and Response during the last Congressional Session, he oversaw the
18 passage of landmark legislation that distributes first responder
19 funds based on the nation's greatest threats and vulnerabilities.
20 The legislation also streamlined the process for getting funds to
21 the front lines of the war on terror; and

22 WHEREAS, a native of Bolton, Mississippi, Bennie Thompson
23 represents Mississippi's Second Congressional District. He
24 received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from
25 Tougaloo College, and a Masters of Science Degree from Jackson
26 State University. He was elected Alderman in Bolton in 1969, at
27 the age of 21, and was elected Mayor four years later. He helped
28 Bolton get its first fire engine. In 1980, he became Hinds County

29 Supervisor. He was elected to the United States House of
30 Representatives in 1993; and

31 WHEREAS, even in the busy, high-profile, political atmosphere
32 of Capital Hill, the Congressman has remained down-to-earth,
33 steadfast to his principles and close to his roots. In fact, he
34 lives in the small town in which he was born. He is a founding
35 member of the Mississippi Association of Black Mayors and the
36 Mississippi Association of Black Supervisors. Congressman
37 Thompson is a lifelong member of the Ashbury United Methodist
38 Church in Bolton and has been continuously active in numerous
39 civic, community and professional organizations. In all his work,
40 he has strived to remember and empower those who gave him an
41 opportunity to represent the Second Congressional District of
42 Mississippi; and

43 WHEREAS, the Second Congressional District of Mississippi is
44 one of the largest in the country. It is approximately 275 miles
45 long, 180 miles wide and borders the Mississippi River. With a
46 population of 711,164 people, the district is a unique blend of
47 the most urban and the most rural regions of the state. The
48 Mississippi Delta still comprises the vast majority of the
49 district. These counties are not only some of the most
50 agriculturally productive, but the people who live here are part
51 of a culture unique to itself; and

52 WHEREAS, Congressman Thompson has been married to his college
53 sweetheart, London Johnson of Mound Bayou, Mississippi, for 35
54 years. The couple has one daughter, BendaLonne, and one
55 granddaughter, Jenna; and

56 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
57 veteran lawmaker, whose new responsibility will ensure that
58 Americans get the security they have been promised, and who
59 remains committed to improving the quality of life for all
60 Mississippians and thereby brings honor to his community and to
61 the State of Mississippi:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
64 we do hereby commend and congratulate Congressman Bennie Thompson
65 (D-MS) upon his recent appointment as the Ranking Member of the
66 House Committee on Homeland Security by the House Democratic
67 Caucus, and extend to him and his family our warmest appreciation
68 and support for his continued success as he leads his colleagues
69 and serves the people of Mississippi and the United States.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
71 Congressman Bennie Thompson, forwarded to members of Mississippi's
72 Congressional delegation and be made available to the Capitol
73 Press Corps.