

By: Senator(s) Kirby,  
Albritton, Burton, Butler,  
Carmichael, Chaney, Clarke,  
Davis, Dearing, Flowers,  
Frazier, Gollott, Gordon,  
Harvey, Hewes, Horhn, King, Lee  
(35th), Little, Mettetal,  
Moffatt, Morgan, Pickering,  
Posey, Simmons, Thames, Thomas,  
White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION WELCOMING THE DOUBLE-A MISSISSIPPI  
2 BRAVES BASEBALL TEAM TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

3 WHEREAS, on Monday, April 18, 2005, Double-A affiliated  
4 baseball returned to the Magnolia State, when the Mississippi  
5 Braves, the AA Southern League Franchise of the Atlanta Braves,  
6 played their first game at the \$25 Million "Trustmark Park" in  
7 Pearl, Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, Mississippi Braves General Manager Steve DeSalvo and  
9 Field Manager Brian Snitker have presented central Mississippi  
10 with a 5,500 seat (7,319 capacity) state of the art stadium that  
11 will serve as home for the AA Mississippi Braves. Private stadium  
12 financing is assisted through state and municipal sales tax rebate  
13 incentives under the Mississippi Tourism Incentive Program, and  
14 access road construction; and

15 WHEREAS, the Atlanta Braves parent organization's streak of  
16 13 straight division championships is a well-known accomplishment  
17 which has been driven by a successful farm league system. Less  
18 publicized but equally significant is the fact that for 14  
19 straight years, the Braves minor league system has placed seventh  
20 or higher in talent rankings published by *Baseball America*. There  
21 is an obvious correlation, the Braves organization has done a  
22 remarkably consistent job of developing talent to supply their  
23 major league club and central Mississippi is the beneficiary of  
24 this sports entertainment and economic development product; and

25 WHEREAS, Double-A is the fifth of six levels in the Atlanta  
26 minor league system, and the AA Braves has sent stars to the  
27 majors such as Chipper Jones, Andruw Jones, Marcus Giles, Javy

28 Lopez, Mark Lemke, Ron Gant, Tom Glavine, Ryan Klesko, Steve  
29 Avery, Jeff Blauser, Vinny Castilla, Kevin Millwood, Jason  
30 Schmidt, Jermaine Dye, Jason Marquis, Eddie Perez and Mark  
31 Wohlers. The opening day roster of the Mississippi Braves had  
32 five of *Baseball America's* top 10 rated players in the  
33 organization: Jeff Francoeur (1), Brian McCann (3), Anthony Lerew  
34 (5), Luis Hernandez (7) and Blaine Boyer (10). The Mississippi  
35 Braves had six players on the Atlanta Braves' 40-man roster:  
36 Blaine Boyer, Anthony Lerew, Macay McBride, Jorge Vasquez, Luis  
37 Hernandez and Scott Thorman; and

38 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi is a big fan of the Braves  
39 parent organization, which has the following accomplishments to  
40 its credit: 1995 World Series Champions; 13 consecutive Division  
41 Championships; *Baseball America's* Organization of the Year - 1991  
42 and 1996; *USA Today's* Organization of the Year - 1996 and  
43 Organization of the Past 20 Years - 1982-2001; *Topps'* Organization  
44 of the Year - 1986; Braves General Manager John Schuerholz 2004  
45 recipient of the *Baseball America* Lifetime Achievement Award (son,  
46 Jon Schuerholz, plays second base for the Mississippi Braves); and

47 WHEREAS, from the \$1 Million scoreboard to the 26 luxury  
48 suites, not many expenses were spared in building Trustmark Park  
49 and bringing AA baseball back to the Central-Mississippi-Metro  
50 area, including the following features: capacity of 7,319; each  
51 seat has a chair back and a cup holder; 21 foot daktronics  
52 videoboard; Cellular South Cafe - full-service restaurant open  
53 year round; Alltel Corporate Picnic Pavilion; Mid-South Ford  
54 Dealers Family Fun Zone; 26 luxury suites; two party decks; nine  
55 specialty concession stands and 360 degree concourse; and

56 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Braves have already proven  
57 themselves to be excellent corporate citizens for the Central  
58 Mississippi area, evidences by the following charitable efforts:  
59 K for Kids (a donation is made to a local charity each time a  
60 Mississippi Braves pitcher strikes out an opponent); baseball,

61 books and bar graphs (a donation was made to support the summer  
62 educational program in the Pearl Public School District); Dream,  
63 Inc. (a Drug Use Prevention Program); Budweiser "Good Sport"  
64 Program (encouraging designated drivers); and other donations and  
65 contributions have been made to organizations and causes in the  
66 Central Mississippi area; and

67 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Braves will compete in the Southern  
68 League, one of three Double-A level leagues in Minor League  
69 Baseball, which traces its beginnings back to 1885, when eight  
70 cities joined to form the Southern League of Professional Baseball  
71 Clubs; and

72 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the arrival  
73 of this popular southern baseball franchise to our state:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
75 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
76 we do hereby welcome the Double-A Mississippi Braves Baseball Team  
77 to the State of Mississippi and commend Braves General Manager  
78 John Schuerholz and Mississippi Braves General Manager Steve  
79 DeSalvo for their decision to locate their franchise in the  
80 Magnolia State.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
82 the General Manager, Field Manager and members of the Mississippi  
83 Braves organization and be made available to the Capitol Press  
84 Corps.