

By: Senator(s) White, Frazier, To: Rules  
Gordon, Morgan

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JOEL ELLZIE OF  
2 OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, UPON BEING SELECTED AS A RECIPIENT OF  
3 THE PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL "STARS OF LIFE" AWARD FOR 2005-2006 BY  
4 AMERICAN MEDICAL RESPONSE AND THE AMERICAN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

5 WHEREAS, American Medical Response (AMR), the nation's  
6 largest ambulance service, and the American Ambulance Association  
7 have named Paramedic Joel Ellzie of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, to  
8 the national "Stars of Life" Awards Program for 2005-2006, for his  
9 work during Hurricane Ivan evacuations; and

10 WHEREAS, "Star of Life" is an honorary title that the  
11 American Ambulance Association bestows on about 100 outstanding  
12 emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and paramedics across the  
13 United States each year. The selection is the nation's most  
14 prestigious award for frontline ambulance personnel; and

15 WHEREAS, Joel Ellzie will visit Washington, D.C., from May  
16 1-4, 2005, to attend recognition ceremonies by the American  
17 Ambulance Association and AMR. He will also meet with several  
18 members of Congress and tour the nation's capital; and

19 WHEREAS, the 900 ambulance services that belong to the  
20 American Ambulance Association employ hundreds of thousands of  
21 EMTs and paramedics. So, as one of only 100 Stars of Life  
22 nationwide this year, Joel is in an elite group; and

23 WHEREAS, based near Washington, D.C., the American Ambulance  
24 Association is the trade association for the medical  
25 transportation industry. A committee of AMR managers from the  
26 34-state company chose Ellzie for the award. He was nominated by  
27 his fellow AMR ambulance workers. Criteria requires the

28 nomination of ambulance personnel who "personify the best of the  
29 profession"; and

30 WHEREAS, Ellzie is both a Field Paramedic and Supervisor with  
31 AMR in Harrison and Hancock Counties, where he has worked for  
32 eight years. Chris Cirillo, Director of Operations, praised  
33 Ellzie for exceptional work during Hurricane Ivan. Cirillo said,  
34 "Mass evacuations from Ivan suddenly created an unprecedented need  
35 for a second shelter for bed-bound patients and people dependent  
36 on biomedical equipment. Joel met the challenge head-on. He  
37 found a site, coordinated with several agencies for supplies and  
38 generators, and recruited other caregivers. Joel and his team  
39 took care of 35 patients for 36 hours straight"; and

40 WHEREAS, AMR will send 41 Stars of Life to Washington this  
41 year. In Mississippi, the company employs approximately 500  
42 personnel in Adams, Hancock, Harrison, Hinds, Madison and Rankin  
43 Counties. AMR plans to introduce the Stars of Life at meetings of  
44 city councils and county commissions during National EMS Week in  
45 mid-May. AMR will also recognize each Star at ceremonies at the  
46 company's offices in Jackson and Gulfport. AMR is Mississippi's  
47 busiest ambulance service. In fiscal year 2003, AMR transported  
48 nearly one of every four ambulance patients statewide. More than  
49 18,000 AMR paramedics, EMTs and other professionals transport over  
50 four million patients each year in emergency, critical and  
51 non-emergency situations; and

52 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we recognize this caring and  
53 compassionate professional who has brought honor to his company,  
54 his community and to the State of Mississippi:

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
56 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Joel  
57 Ellzie of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, upon being selected as a  
58 recipient of the prestigious national "Stars of Life" Award for  
59 2005-2006 by American Medical Response and the American Ambulance

60 Association, and extend to him the best wishes of the Senate in  
61 his future endeavors.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
63 Joel Ellzie and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.