

By: Senator(s) Gollott, Dawkins, To: Rules
Hewes

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING BUDDY SHEFFIELD AS
2 HONOREE OF THE "BILOXIAN MADE GOOD" AWARD PRESENTED BY THE BILOXI
3 BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

4 WHEREAS, the Biloxi Bay Chamber is sponsoring the "Biloxian
5 Made Good" Award, which will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2005,
6 at the Biloxi Community Center. The honoree for the year is
7 well-known screenwriter Buddy Sheffield; and

8 WHEREAS, Buddy Sheffield was always interested in the
9 theatre. While attending Biloxi High School (BHS), he and his
10 brother David, and a small band of others, started the Thespian
11 Club. In addition to the plays produced by the club, Buddy was
12 also in a major musical, *Camelot*, at BHS in 1967. His senior
13 year, Buddy was named "Wittiest Boy" and was Assistant Editor of
14 the HI TIDE. Sheffield was awarded a scholarship to the summer
15 theatre program at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM)
16 and started college only three days after graduating from Biloxi
17 High School; and

18 WHEREAS, at USM, Buddy was very active in technical theatre
19 as well as acting and was awarded the Louis Gertler Award for
20 proficiency in technical theatre two years in a row. While still
21 a student, Buddy and his then wife Rita, began a children's
22 theater company. The company, which was to become known as SET
23 (Sheffield Ensemble Theatre) began touring local schools for 25
24 cents per student and grew to become the most popular theatre for
25 youth in America, touring the nation for 36 weeks each year and
26 playing at such venues as The Kennedy Center and The Detroit

27 Institute of the Arts. The company was based in Biloxi and
28 proudly carried the name of its home city everywhere it went; and

29 WHEREAS, SET also produced plays and musicals in its home
30 theatre on Lameuse Street as well as at the Saenger Theatre on
31 Reynoir. Buddy was on the Board of Directors for the Saenger
32 Theatre for six years and was instrumental in the theater's
33 restoration. In the summer of 1978, SET produced a season of
34 plays, including the musical *The Robber Bridegroom* and *Biloxi*, an
35 historical play written by David Sheffield; and

36 WHEREAS, the children's theatre continued to tour and won the
37 Sara Spenser Child Drama Cup, awarded by The Southeastern Theatre
38 Conference and the very prestigious Jennie Heiden Award, given by
39 The American Theatre Association. Buddy wrote several original
40 musicals such as *Bananas*, *Beans*, *Feats* and *Videosyncrasies* which
41 became hits with kids all over America; and after a while, the
42 company played almost exclusively to repeat customers. In the
43 Summer of 1984, SET was a primary entertainment contractor for The
44 Louisiana World Exposition in New Orleans; and

45 WHEREAS, Buddy moved to the West Coast to try his luck, was
46 hired by the first television show he applied to, and began an
47 uninterrupted career as a screenwriter which has continued for
48 twenty years. Most notably, Buddy was Head Writer for *In Living*
49 *Color* on the Fox network, and Buddy was also a writer on *Dolly*, a
50 variety show on ABC starring Dolly Parton; and

51 WHEREAS, in 1992, Buddy created and produced a show called
52 *Roundhouse* for Nickelodeon. It was a ground-breaking show and is
53 considered by some to be the most creative show ever to appear on
54 television. Buddy was Head Writer and Executive Producer for 56
55 episodes. In his career, Buddy received three Emmy nominations,
56 four Cable ACE nominations, one Cable ACE Award, one Ollie Award
57 given by the American Center for Children's Television and one
58 NAACP Image Award; and

59 WHEREAS, Buddy is very happy to be once again working with
60 his brother, David. The brothers have teamed up and are currently
61 writing a pilot for HBO entitled *Ruthless Debutantes*, which takes
62 place in New Orleans' French Quarter. Buddy's heart has always
63 been in the live theatre and, after many years, he is making a
64 return to the stage, where he has written the book, music and
65 lyrics to a new Broadway musical, *Idaho*; and

66 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the unique
67 accomplishments of this famous Mississippian, whose talent has
68 brought honor to his community and to the State of Mississippi:

69 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
70 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate respected
71 screenwriter Buddy Sheffield as the honoree of the "Biloxian Made
72 Good" Award presented by the Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce, and
73 extend to him and his family the best wishes of the Senate for
74 success in his future endeavors.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
76 Buddy Sheffield at ceremonies on August 25, 2005, and be made
77 available to the Capitol Press Corps.