

By: Representatives Evans, Banks, Robinson  
(63rd), Johnson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 10

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE NEIGHBORS PROGRAM  
2 FOR ITS DEDICATION TO HELPING OTHERS AND COMMENDING MRS. ALICE  
3 THOMAS TISDALE FOR THIS PROJECT AND MANY OTHER GENIUS SUCCESSES.

4 WHEREAS, the NEIGHBORS program evolved in the aftermath of  
5 Hurricane Katrina from the caring initiative of one individual,  
6 Mr. Donnie Finley, a member of the Clarion Hotel maintenance  
7 personnel in Jackson, Mississippi, who was informed that  
8 Louisiana evacuees were being mistreated by the hotel staff; and

9 WHEREAS, responding to their frustration, Mr. Finley called  
10 Jackson City Councilman Kenneth Stokes, and informed Councilman  
11 Stokes that the evacuees were unsatisfied with services of the  
12 hotel, yet had no money to go elsewhere, and didn't want to go to  
13 a shelter because of their small children; and

14 WHEREAS, after interviewing the hotel management, staff  
15 worked with the Red Cross to provide accommodations for the  
16 evacuees, and gave Mr. Finley, Councilman Stokes, Mr. Eddie James  
17 and Mrs. Alice Tisdale permission to use their meeting room to  
18 hold a crisis management counseling session; and

19 WHEREAS, with the operation of lending assistance up and  
20 running, doing what they believed was good work, the organization  
21 was without a name and really had no definite mission; but it was  
22 decided that they were being good neighbors, so therefore the name  
23 NEIGHBORS (Nation's Evacuees In Good Hands with/Benevolent  
24 Out-Reach Services) came into being; and

25 WHEREAS, with Mrs. Tisdale's assistance, the children were  
26 enrolled in school with the help of Brinda Fuller Willis, the  
27 education partner, and Sylvan Learning Center administered

28 placement tests to determine where the students were academically;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, NEIGHBORS enlisted the help of We Care About You  
31 Tutorial Services to provide needed after school services, Jackson  
32 State University furnished two refurbished computers, and several  
33 agencies donated school supplies; and

34 WHEREAS, having partnered with the Jackson Hinds  
35 Comprehensive Health Center, the Center provided all the health  
36 care services free of charge, including, physicals, dental care  
37 and eye care to all displaced residents; and

38 WHEREAS, growing each and every day, NEIGHBORS continues to  
39 offer help where needed by relying on its partners who are experts  
40 in their respective fields, but above all, the program is directed  
41 by the hand of God, waving it with broad strokes so all dare not  
42 miss it; and

43 WHEREAS, other endeavors undertaken by NEIGHBORS include, but  
44 are not limited to: establishing bank accounts with Regions Bank  
45 for 10 families in amounts of up to Three Hundred Dollars each,  
46 clerical service, transportation services, assisting 10 families  
47 with move-in expenses, assisting two displaced residents to start  
48 businesses and coordinating work sessions with FEMA  
49 representatives and the Jackson State University Small Business  
50 Development Office; and

51 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
52 recognize and commend the diligent efforts and contributions of  
53 the NEIGHBORS program provided in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's  
54 devastation and aftermath:

55 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
56 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
57 honor and commend the NEIGHBORS program for its dedication to  
58 helping others and its many other genius successes.

59           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
60 furnished to Mrs. Alice Tisdale for the NEIGHBORS program and to  
61 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.