

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Gollott, To: Rules
Hewes, Harden, Robertson,
Moffatt, Little, Turner, Chaney,
Cuevas, Tollison, Burton,
Pickering, Morgan, Posey,
Williamson

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 503

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING *THE SUN*
2 *HERALD* IN GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, UPON ITS RECEIPT OF THE
3 PRESTIGIOUS PULITZER PRIZE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDED FOR ITS
4 COVERAGE OF THE CATASTROPHIC HURRICANE KATRINA EVENTS AND FOR
5 PROVIDING A LIFELINE FOR ITS DEVASTATED READERS.

6 WHEREAS, on Monday, April 17, 2006, *The Sun Herald* in
7 Gulfport, Mississippi, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Public
8 Service for its coverage under difficult circumstances of the
9 catastrophic Hurricane Katrina, which devastated its area along
10 the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and

11 WHEREAS, in the public service category which is considered
12 the highest honor, the Pulitzer Board praised *The Sun Herald* (and
13 *The Times-Picayune* of New Orleans) "for providing a lifeline for
14 devastated readers in print and online during their time of
15 greatest need." Both newspapers rejoiced over their Gold Medals,
16 but out of respect for the deaths caused by Hurricane Katrina and
17 the hardships borne by their staffs, the celebration was low-key;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Executive Editor Stan Tiner told employees gathered
20 in the newsroom shortly after they erupted in applause at the
21 announcement. "You are truly the best, and to this newsroom I say
22 this: Never have so few worked so hard and so long to tell such a
23 story - an unending story. This Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal is
24 dedicated to the people of South Mississippi whose magnificent
25 hearts and spirit moved us every day that we have been privileged
26 to tell the story of their struggle and triumphs," he said. "They
27 will not be defeated, not by Katrina, or anything"; and

28 WHEREAS, three of the newspaper's editors were listed as
29 finalists for a prize in editorial writing; and

30 WHEREAS, Publisher Rickey Mathews and Stan Tiner praised the
31 entire paper's staff, and parent company Knight Ridder, for their
32 hard work keeping the paper running and printing - not missing a
33 single day's publication - and keeping the staff fed and sheltered
34 for weeks afterward. "This award is almost as surreal as it was
35 driving down the beach after the storm," said *Sun Herald* Vice
36 President of Operations Marlene Kler. "I don't know if people can
37 fully imagine what people at this newspaper went through
38 personally, but put it aside to serve the community"; and

39 WHEREAS, Governor Haley Barbour congratulated the paper: "No
40 newspaper ever deserved a Pulitzer Prize for public service any
41 more than *The Sun Herald*, "The newspaper's management and staff
42 lived through the darkest hours of Hurricane Katrina with its
43 readers, forming a oneness that continues to this day. Even in
44 the most adverse conditions imaginable, the newspaper never missed
45 a beat as a valued source of vital information for its readers.
46 Indeed, it never missed publishing even one day"; and

47 WHEREAS, *The Sun Herald* had a pre-hurricane circulation of
48 47,000 daily and 55,000 on Sunday, and has regained most of its
49 circulation. This is the first Pulitzer Prize for *The Sun Herald*;
50 and

51 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
52 singular achievement by this newspaper and its dedicated staff,
53 who represent the courage, spirit, love and hope of the citizens
54 of the Mississippi Gulf Coast as they stand and begin the journey
55 to their future with sweat and dignity:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby commend and congratulate *The Sun Herald* in Gulfport,
59 Mississippi, its publishers, managers and staff, upon their
60 receipt of the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for public service

61 awarded for their coverage of the catastrophic events of Hurricane
62 Katrina and for providing a lifeline for devastated readers in the
63 aftermath of the hurricane, and extend to them the best wishes of
64 the Legislature in their future public service endeavors.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
66 the managers and staff of *The Sun Herald* and be made available to
67 members of the Capitol Press Corps.