

By: Representatives Parker, Patterson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 83

1 A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE
2 OF MISSISSIPPI TO RECOGNIZE AUGUST 17 THROUGH AUGUST 29, 2007, AS
3 A TIME OF HURRICANE AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS OBSERVATION.

4 WHEREAS, history teaches that a lack of hurricane awareness
5 and preparation are common threads among all major hurricane
6 disasters; and

7 WHEREAS, by simply knowing one's level of vulnerability and
8 what appropriate actions should be taken, the effects of a
9 hurricane disaster can be greatly reduced; and

10 WHEREAS, both public and private entities should develop
11 emergency response and recovery plans in accordance with local
12 jurisdictions and local emergency management offices; and

13 WHEREAS, the best defense is preparedness and public
14 education about the dangers of high winds, storm surge, flooding
15 and tornadoes that may occur for hundreds of miles in conjunction
16 with a hurricane or tropical storm; and

17 WHEREAS, hurricanes devastate our communities, endangering
18 thousands of human lives and causing billions of dollars in
19 property damage, and their fierce and destructive power alone
20 requires that we all take steps to reduce our vulnerability to
21 this natural hazard; and

22 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency
23 (FEMA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an
24 average of 10 tropical storms develop annually over the Atlantic
25 Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico; and

26 WHEREAS, every year, an average of six of these storms grow
27 strong enough to become hurricanes, accounting for approximately

28 five hurricanes which strike the United States coastline every
29 three years, two of which will have winds exceeding 111 miles per
30 hour, qualifying them as major hurricanes; and

31 WHEREAS, more than 50 million people live along
32 hurricane-prone coastlines in the United States, with millions of
33 tourists visiting these areas annually; and

34 WHEREAS, during this time of Mississippi Hurricane Awareness
35 and Preparedness Observation, we encourage those who live in
36 coastal areas, as well as all concerned Mississippians, to be more
37 vigilant in preparing for hurricanes and other natural disasters
38 before they occur; and

39 WHEREAS, by promoting awareness of hurricane hazards and
40 helping with relief efforts when these powerful storms strike, we
41 can reduce the risks of hurricane damage and help our neighbors
42 recover more quickly from their devastating effects; and

43 WHEREAS, with preparation, forecasting and coordination, we
44 can save lives and improve our state's ability to withstand the
45 impact of hurricanes:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
47 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
48 recognize August 17 through August 29, 2007, as the time of
49 Hurricane Awareness and Preparedness Observation in the State of
50 Mississippi, and call on government agencies, private
51 organizations, schools, news media, and residents in
52 hurricane-prone areas to share information about hurricane
53 preparedness and response in order to help prevent storm damage
54 and save lives.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
56 furnished to Ms. Dana Nelson and to the members of the Capitol
57 Press Corps.