

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Gollott, Thames, Morgan, Posey, Dearing, King, Moffatt, Burton, Tollison, Albritton, Chaney, White, Dawkins, Michel, Horhn, Walley, Kirby, Robertson, Mettetal, Carmichael, Pickering, Davis, Chassaniol, Jackson (15th), Brown, Walls, Cuevas, Frazier, Clarke, Lee (47th), Thomas, Simmons, Lee (35th), Butler, Wilemon, Jordan, Ross, Flowers, Jackson (32nd), Hyde-Smith, Nunnelee, Turner, Little, Fillingane, Jackson (11th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 570

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE NEW
2 ORLEANS SAINTS FOR THEIR REMARKABLE 2006-2007 SEASON.

3 WHEREAS, the remarkable 2006-2007 season of the New Orleans
4 Saints began at summer training camp in Jackson, Mississippi, a
5 few blocks from I-55, held on the Millsaps Campus, in the brutal,
6 suffocating heat and humidity of the Mississippi summer; and

7 WHEREAS, the season ended on Sunday, January 21, 2007, at
8 Soldier Field, a few blocks from I-55, near the shores of Lake
9 Michigan, in the bitter Chicago cold and snow when the Chicago
10 Bears defeated the Saints 39-14; and

11 WHEREAS, in between these dates, the Saints amazed and
12 thrilled its Mississippi fans and brought some measure of relief
13 to the people of the hurricane-ravaged Gulf South region,
14 including the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and

15 WHEREAS, the New Orleans Saints, winners of only three games
16 in 2005, showed the football world that anything was possible by
17 winning its Division and its first-round divisional play-off game
18 against the Philadelphia Eagles; and

19 WHEREAS, a magical season and wonderful ride for Mississippi
20 Saints' fans came to a halt in Chicago as the loss to the Bears in
21 the NFC Championship was a truly bitter end to what was a
22 fantastic season for the City of New Orleans and its fans, with
23 the Saints coming up one game short of the Super Bowl; and

24 WHEREAS, despite trailing 16-0 early in the game, the Saints
25 rallied with two touchdown passes from Quarterback Drew Brees, to

26 make the score 16-14 in the third quarter, after which mistakes
27 took the game away from the visiting Saints; and

28 WHEREAS, this accomplishment was by a team that until this
29 year had won only one playoff game in 39 previous seasons. A
30 rookie Head Coach Sean Payton took three prominent rookies on
31 offense, with 10 new starters and 27 new players, and moved the
32 team to within one victory of the Super Bowl. This accomplishment
33 came one season removed from not only a 3-13 season, but from a
34 season during which the team had to evacuate not only the city,
35 but the region, due to the worst natural disaster in United States
36 history; and

37 WHEREAS, this remarkable season came in a year when the
38 starting quarterback was recovering from shoulder surgery; the
39 star running back (Mississippi native Deuce McAlister from Ole
40 Miss) was recovering from knee surgery, the team's two best
41 receivers missed much of the season; the tight end was lost for
42 the season, and the defense was a no-name group; and

43 WHEREAS, "It's been a special season for us," Saints running
44 back Deuce McAllister said. Not only is Deuce a hero to the
45 Saints, he has assisted in jump-starting the local Mississippi
46 economy by contracting to spend \$55 Million along with Watkins
47 Partners and HRI Inc., of New Orleans to refurbish the century-old
48 King Edward Hotel, and by the expansion of two automobile
49 dealerships; and

50 WHEREAS, Coach Sean Payton said "The hurt of this defeat will
51 eventually go away, but there is a lot of pain in our city that
52 isn't going away anytime soon." He was talking about the
53 rebuilding of New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but he
54 could have been talking about his young football team. For 40
55 years the all-too-familiar Saints refrain has been "Wait till Next
56 Year," and this time the Saints can say it and mean it:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
58 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That

59 we do hereby commend and congratulate the New Orleans Saints
60 Football Team and NFL Coach of the Year Sean Payton for their
61 remarkable 2006-2007 season, and extend to them the best wishes of
62 the Legislature and our invitation to return to Mississippi in
63 August 2007 for Saints Training Camp and the beginning of another
64 remarkable season.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
66 Deuce McAlister for the New Orleans Saints and be transmitted to
67 the corporate headquarters of the Saints and be made available to
68 the Capitol Press Corps.