

By: Senator(s) Burton, Carmichael, Jackson
(32nd), Lee (35th), Posey, Browning

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 597

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING WANDA
2 JOHNSON ON BEING SELECTED AS THE 2006 STATE GAMES OF MISSISSIPPI
3 BELLSOUTH FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE YEAR.

4 WHEREAS, Wanda Johnson of Crystal Springs, Mississippi, was
5 selected as the 2006 State Games of Mississippi BellSouth Female
6 Athlete of the Year; and

7 WHEREAS, the award seeks to honor those athletes who
8 personify the ideals of the State Games movement, such as
9 participation, sportsmanship, achievement, effort and positive
10 attitude; and

11 WHEREAS, Wanda Johnson, age 50, took up volleyball late in
12 life and plays very competitively at her age in a sporting event
13 that is predominantly played by males. Over the years, she has
14 medaled in the State Games of Mississippi's volleyball event in
15 both men's and women's divisions; and

16 WHEREAS, Wanda started playing volleyball in her late 30's
17 after her boys were grown. She is very committed to the sport of
18 volleyball, as she drives 45 minutes twice every weekend to
19 participate in pickup games at Liberty Park in Madison,
20 Mississippi, to practice with the Jackson volleyball players.
21 Wanda also goes to Meridian to play with the area volleyball
22 competitors. In her commitment to volleyball, she travels to many
23 of the popular tournament venues, such as Coconut Beach in New
24 Orleans, Louisiana; Mangos in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and
25 Fudpuckers in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida; and any other tournaments
26 that she can find throughout the southeast; and

27 WHEREAS, for the last couple of years, Wanda has been
28 competing with a foot injury, but her passion and love for the
29 sport does not allow her to quit. Wanda's drive and excitement is
30 seen by all other fellow participants; and

31 WHEREAS, she is always eager to encourage newcomers to
32 participate in the sport. "I love to see Wanda at tournaments and
33 really enjoy each time I have the opportunity to play with or
34 against her," says volleyball commissioner and athlete Scott Gray.
35 "Everyone admires her dedication and enthusiasm"; and

36 WHEREAS, Wanda is an inspiration to all -- male, female,
37 young or old. She is volleyball at its best. Wanda has competed
38 in the State Games of Mississippi for 10 years and has received
39 Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals in both the men's and women's
40 divisions; and

41 WHEREAS, Wanda demonstrates the true spirit of the State
42 Games of Mississippi as she is committed to doing her best, enjoys
43 the competition and has respect for the athletes, volunteers and
44 staff who work, plan and implement this annual classic; and

45 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we recognize and commend this
46 amateur athlete who has brought honor to her community and to the
47 State of Mississippi:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
50 we do hereby commend and congratulate Wanda Johnson on being
51 selected as the 2006 State Games of Mississippi BellSouth Female
52 Athlete of the Year and express our heartiest wishes for continued
53 success in all her future endeavors.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 Wanda Johnson, and made available to the members of the Capitol
56 Press Corps.