

By: Senator(s) Doty, Barnett, Blackwell,  
Caughman, Dearing, Jackson (11th), Jackson  
(32nd), Parker, Seymour, Simmons (12th),  
Watson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 590

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MASTER SERGEANT SHEILA  
2 SMITH FROM BROOKHAVEN, MISSISSIPPI, AS THE DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE,  
3 FISHERIES AND PARKS "2017 CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR."

4 WHEREAS, we join the Mississippi Department of Wildlife,  
5 Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) in honoring Master Sergeant Sheila  
6 Smith, a fourteen-year veteran of the department, as the "2017  
7 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks Conservation Officer of the Year;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Master Sergeant Sheila Smith is the first female  
10 Game Warden to win the award, and she will receive the award at  
11 the 58th Mississippi Conservation Achievement Awards Luncheon on  
12 February 15 at the Hilton Jackson Hotel; and

13 WHEREAS, the Port Gibson native has lived in Brookhaven and  
14 patrolled Lincoln County for 14 years, and 2017 may have been her  
15 busiest year yet. Last year, she wrote a total of 124 citations,  
16 including 11 felonies and three Class I wildlife violations, and  
17 made numerous arrests for drug possession, parole violations,



18 felons with firearms, and more. She recorded more felony arrests  
19 than any other Conservation Officer in Mississippi; and

20 WHEREAS, Sergeant Smith's duties are numerous and varied.  
21 Making felony arrests grabs attention, but Smith also performs the  
22 task of an old school, neighborly Game Warden: checking licenses,  
23 teaching Hunter's Education to youth, teaching Boater's Education,  
24 working accidents, overseeing fishing rodeos, and speaking at  
25 churches and local schools. Smith is a Field Training Officer for  
26 the MDWFP, mentoring new officers assigned to the region in  
27 twelve-month stints; and

28 WHEREAS, she also volunteers for the Wildlife Department's  
29 successful Archery in Mississippi Schools Program, working the  
30 Regional and State Tournaments every year. She previously coached  
31 the Archery Team at Brookhaven Academy, leading them to a title in  
32 2015. Smith is on the Board of Directors for the Lincoln County  
33 Wildlife Expo and she and her husband, Steve, are supporters of  
34 the Brookhaven Animal Rescue League. Much of her time with MDWFP  
35 is spent rescuing and releasing wildlife; and

36 WHEREAS, although not part of her assigned duties, Smith is  
37 also leading the way in another important area of Law Enforcement  
38 of MDWFP: She is cutting out a trail for women to enter the  
39 profession. There are three female Conservation Officers in  
40 Mississippi now; Sheila was the only one for 12 years. She said,  
41 "There's not a whole lot of women interested in sitting in the  
42 woods all night. It is mainly a man's job because that's who you



43 are dealing with most of the time. I grew up hunting and fishing.  
44 For me, a Game Warden is what I always wanted to be"; and

45 WHEREAS, Major Lane Ball, MDWFP's South Region Administrator,  
46 said, "One of Smith's most impressive qualities is her ability to  
47 interact with the public, a common requirement of a Game Warden  
48 that is not easy for everyone. On the other side, when she's  
49 dealing with violators, she has a way of keeping the situation  
50 under control"; and

51 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we thank an effective  
52 law enforcement professional for her service to the State of  
53 Mississippi:

54 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
55 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
56 we do hereby recognize Master Sergeant Sheila Smith from  
57 Brookhaven, Mississippi, as the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries  
58 and Parks "2017 Conservation Officer of the Year," and extend to  
59 Sergeant Smith and her family our best wishes for success in her  
60 future career.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
62 Master Sergeant Sheila Smith, forwarded to the Mississippi  
63 Commission on Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, and made available to  
64 the Capitol Press Corps.

