

By: Senator(s) Simmons (13th), Barnett,  
Browning, Bryan, Clarke, Jackson (32nd),  
Jolly

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 653

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS  
2 AND JOURNALISM EXCELLENCE OF WTVA 9 TUPELO NEWS ANCHOR TANYA  
3 CARTER, THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE JOURNALIST FROM THE  
4 MISSISSIPPI DELTA TO WIN THE "HOWARD LETT AWARD."

5 WHEREAS, we join the journalism community in honoring the  
6 career of Tanya Carter. Tanya Carter serves as an Anchor/Reporter  
7 for WTVA 9 News In Tupelo, Mississippi. There she anchors the  
8 Noon show, 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. newscasts. She also hosted a  
9 Public Affairs show, "Chasing The News," which featured  
10 conversations with people and organizations looking to make a  
11 difference in the community; and

12 WHEREAS, prior to her arrival in North Mississippi in 2016,  
13 Tanya served as Assistant News Director and Main Anchor for  
14 WABG-TV6 in Greenville, Mississippi. She came to the Mississippi  
15 Delta from New York City with a reputation as a solid,  
16 straight-forward, "no-nonsense" Reporter, and joined the ABC 6  
17 News Team as a General Assignment Reporter in July 2003. Tanya  
18 knew early on that she could not change Mississippi's history, but



19 she has changed the face of Journalism in the Mississippi Delta;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the news veteran was the first reporter in the Delta  
22 to gain media access to cover a high-profile capital murder trial.  
23 Tanya Carter's fascination with covering the courts led to the  
24 Mississippi Supreme Court nominating Tanya Carter for the Donald  
25 W. Reynolds National Center of Courts and Media in the National  
26 Judicial College, Basic Legal Affairs Reporting for Journalists  
27 Scholarship in 2005. Tanya also received a Mississippi  
28 "Associated Press" Award for Investigative Reporting of a gang  
29 shooting in Bolivar County in 2005, which would become the first  
30 of many awards to come; and

31 WHEREAS, when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in  
32 2005, former Secretary of the United States Department of  
33 Agriculture and former U.S. Representative of the Second District  
34 of Mississippi, Mike Espy, and State Representative Chuck Espy  
35 invited Tanya Carter to report not only on the devastation and  
36 destruction to thousands of families but also on the relief  
37 efforts as well. Tanya was a part of the Feed The Children, NBA  
38 and WNBA Caravan of more than ten semi-tractor-trailers of donated  
39 food and relief supplies that went to the region; and

40 WHEREAS, as a tenacious, persistent, but fair Reporter, Tanya  
41 Carter is viewed as honest and approachable, and she has formed a  
42 new relationship with the public by creating a market demand for  
43 quality journalism. To sustain public trust, Tanya Carter



44 maintains a healthy degree of skepticism and sets the ethics bar  
45 higher than most. She stands out because of her passion and utter  
46 fearlessness. For several years, the United States Marshal  
47 Service invited Tanya Carter to participate in Operation Federal  
48 and Local Cops Organized Nationally (FALCON). To help stem the  
49 tide of the Methamphetamine epidemic in the Mississippi Delta,  
50 WABG-TV6 and its partners served as a catalyst to create community  
51 dialogue through a public service awareness campaign, for which  
52 Tanya won a Mississippi "Associated Press" Award in 2008 for Best  
53 Public Affairs Story about Crystal Methamphetamine. Tanya's  
54 commitment to breaking down barriers built on discrimination and  
55 to ensure access to justice led to another award by the  
56 Mississippi "Associated Press" in 2009 on the murder of Honduran  
57 construction worker Carlos Mesa in Clarksdale, Mississippi. In  
58 March 2008, Tanya Carter was the only Journalist entrusted with  
59 the visit of Democratic Presidential Candidate Illinois Senator  
60 Barack Obama to Greenville, Mississippi, prior to the Mississippi  
61 primary elections; and

62 WHEREAS, during the transition from analog to digital  
63 communication, Tanya's leadership and involvement in news coverage  
64 in the Clarksdale television market enabled Commonwealth  
65 Broadcasting d/b/a WABG-TV6 to be awarded significantly viewed  
66 status with the Federal Communications Commission. The market  
67 assignment enabled WABG-TV6 to continue cable carriage in Coahoma  
68 County and the surrounding communities; and



69 WHEREAS, Tanya Carter is a strong supporter of the law  
70 enforcement community and has earned the respect of many federal,  
71 state, county, and local agencies. In 2009, Tanya Carter was  
72 nominated into the FBI Citizens Academy hosted by the Jackson,  
73 Mississippi, Field Office. Tanya credits the instruction she  
74 received in the Citizens Academy for making her realize the need  
75 for partnerships between law enforcement, the media and the  
76 public. A year later, Tanya Carter was awarded the 2010 FBI  
77 Director's Community Leadership Award by Daniel McMullen, Special  
78 Agent in Charge, Jackson Field Office. Tanya was nominated for  
79 the Jackson Field Office FBI's Community Leadership Award for 2010  
80 based on her outstanding contributions toward education programs,  
81 youth organizations and advancing cooperation with ethnic and  
82 minority groups. Tanya Carter has been instrumental as an  
83 advocate for the FBI by providing opportunities for the Jackson  
84 Field Office Special Agent in Charge to speak to political and  
85 civic groups within the Mississippi Delta community. During the  
86 Mississippi Valley State University's 2010 Upward Bound Summer  
87 Program, Tanya Carter invited representatives from the Jackson  
88 Field Office to present a mini-Citizens Academy to the Upward  
89 Bound students. Special Agents and professional support personnel  
90 provided information concerning the history of the FBI, the FBI  
91 mission past and present, internet safety, and gangs. Members of  
92 the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and Special Weapons and Tactic  
93 Teams (SWAT) demonstrated evidence recovery, tactical equipment



94 and techniques, much to the delight of the students. She also  
95 teamed up with the FBI to promote their Cyberbullying Awareness  
96 Program bringing the agency's message to private and public  
97 schools in the Mississippi Delta. Ms. Carter and other recipients  
98 of the Director's Community Leadership Award were recognized and  
99 honored at a ceremony at the FBI Headquarters by Director Robert  
100 Mueller in Washington, D.C. Tanya has also been called upon to  
101 serve on the FBI's Command College Media Panel, an intensive  
102 program to prepare law enforcement leaders for command level  
103 positions; and

104 WHEREAS, in 2010, Mississippi State Senators Robert Jackson  
105 and Willie Simmons enlisted Tanya Carter's help in bringing the  
106 story of EverFi's Financial Literacy Platform to the Mississippi  
107 Delta. Understanding the call for action to help improve the  
108 financial landscape for Delta youth and their families, Tanya  
109 Carter traveled to Marks, Mississippi, on her day off to attend  
110 the Press Conference held by EverFi's CEO Tom Davidson and the  
111 Community of Northwest Mississippi. The initial goal was to  
112 implement the program in 30 school districts but the impact of  
113 Tanya Carter's story led to the program being implemented in more  
114 than 30 school districts. As a graduate of the Upward Bound  
115 Program at Bronx Community College, funded under Title IV Higher  
116 Education Act of 1965, Tanya Carter pushed for the EverFi Program  
117 to be implemented at the Upward Bound Program at Mississippi  
118 Valley State University. As of this date, more than 75,000



Mississippi Delta High School students have graduated as  
Mississippi Financial Scholars; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, Tanya received a Mississippi Association of  
Broadcasters Silver Award for "Spirit of Giving" franchise piece.  
The floods of 2011 along the Mississippi River were another  
devastation to impact the Magnolia State, including the Delta  
Region. Mississippi Public Broadcasting in partnership with  
commercial stations in Louisiana, Tennessee and Mississippi hosted  
a telethon to benefit flood and tornado victims. Tanya Carter was  
the face of the Mississippi Delta to participate in the "Rise to  
Relief" Telethon at the Mississippi Public Broadcasting  
headquarters in Jackson. She volunteered by hosting the telethon  
alongside WLBT's Howard Ballou, which gave everyone an opportunity  
in Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee to make a difference in  
the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, Tanya's greatest achievement came in 2012 from the  
Mississippi "Associated Press" Broadcasters as recipient of the  
Howard Lett "Newsperson of the Year." The award was named after  
Howard Lett, a Veteran Broadcaster, Educator and Public Relations  
Consultant whose accomplishments were proclaimed by the  
Mississippi Legislature in House Concurrent Resolution 115. Tanya  
Carter, nominated by her fellow broadcasters from across the  
state, became the first African-American woman and Journalist from  
the Mississippi Delta area to ever win this prestigious award  
since its inception in 2004; and



144 WHEREAS, in 2013, The Mississippi State Crime Stoppers  
145 Association awarded Tanya its Top Media Representative and for the  
146 success of "Manhunt Monday" which led to 100% apprehension for the  
147 Greenwood-Leflore Crime Stoppers Program. In 2014, the  
148 Mississippi "Associated Press" awarded Tanya Carter with another  
149 award, this time "Best Newscast," Third Place along with her  
150 colleagues Christopher Mathis and Mike Sands; and

151 WHEREAS, Tanya began her career on the number-one morning  
152 show "Good Day New York" at WNYW-FOX5 in New York City before  
153 moving into the News Department. Some of her credits at the  
154 station included the last John Gotti Trial, the World Trade Center  
155 attacks, and being the person Dallas Cowboys' owner Jerry Jones  
156 asked how can we get the NFL on Fox and then instrumental in Fox  
157 winning the NFC package. She later joined WWMT in Kalamazoo,  
158 Michigan, as a News Reporter/CNN Headline News Local Edition  
159 Anchor. While in Michigan, Tanya served a two-year term as a  
160 Resource Council Member for former New York Yankees' All-Star  
161 Shortstop and Captain Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation, Inc. She  
162 is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc; and

163 WHEREAS, Tanya Carter could have gone anywhere in the world  
164 but this New Yorker says God planted her here in Mississippi to  
165 help and serve. From exposing public corruption to empowering  
166 youth or raising money for the less fortunate, Tanya Carter  
167 continues to give people a true sense of their world so they can  
168 participate and have a voice in how it is shaped. She also shines



169 a light on what is working so that people can make their community  
170 and world a better place:

171 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
172 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
173 we do hereby recognize the civic contributions and journalism  
174 excellence of WTVA 9 Tupelo News Anchor Tanya Carter, the first  
175 African-American female Journalist from the Mississippi Delta to  
176 win the "Howard Lett Award," and extend the best wishes of the  
177 Legislature to an excellent Investigative Reporter.

178 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
179 Tanya Carter, forwarded to WTVA Channel 9 Tupelo, and made  
180 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

