

By: Representatives Thompson, Turner,
Aguirre, Creekmore IV, Gibbs (36th),
Lancaster, Waldo

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

1 A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE CRITICAL SERVICE OF THE
2 WTVA-CHANNEL 9 METEOROLOGY TEAM, ENCOURAGING CONTINUED SUPPORT OF
3 THE STATION, AND URGING THE CONTINUED COMMITMENT OF ALLEN MEDIA
4 BROADCASTING TO PROVIDE NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI WITH LOCAL WEATHER
5 COVERAGE BY ITS DEDICATED METEOROLOGISTS.

6 WHEREAS, since its founding in 1957 by Frank K. Spain,
7 WTVA-Channel 9 has been a beacon of journalistic excellence,
8 pioneering local television broadcasting in Northeast Mississippi,
9 with a commitment to delivering timely and accurate weather
10 forecasts to the residents of the region; and

11 WHEREAS, WTVA has a long-standing reputation for providing
12 life-saving weather coverage, demonstrated most recently in March
13 2023, when the timely and accurate reporting of the WTVA Severe
14 Weather Authority helped protect lives during the devastating
15 tornado that tore through the town of Amory and Monroe County; and

16 WHEREAS, the station's meteorology team, led by Chief
17 Meteorologist Matt Laubhan, has earned national recognition for
18 its expertise and commitment to keeping the people of Northeast
19 Mississippi informed and safe, with meteorologists John Dolusic,



Chelsea Simmons and Gabe Mahner further contributing their
experience and dedication to delivering critical weather updates;
and

WHEREAS, WTVA has been recognized with numerous awards,
including multiple Emmy Awards and nominations, for its excellence
in weather broadcasting, further solidifying its status as a
trusted source for severe weather warnings, forecasts and
community updates; and

WHEREAS, the community of Northeast Mississippi
overwhelmingly values and depends on its local meteorologists,
whose deep knowledge of the region, familiarity with its unique
weather patterns, and ability to provide real-time,
location-specific updates cannot be replicated by remote
forecasting services; and

WHEREAS, in response to widespread public support, including
a petition signed by over 35,000 people, Allen Media Broadcasting
reversed its decision to eliminate WTVA's local meteorology staff
and has pledged to continue providing Northeast Mississippi with
the trusted coverage that the community has come to rely upon; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that this commitment be upheld and
reinforced to ensure that the residents of Northeast Mississippi
continue to receive the highest standard of weather forecasting,
particularly in times of severe weather threats; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
recognize and support institutions and professionals who serve as



45 critical lifelines to the people of Mississippi, especially those
46 such as the WTVA Meteorology Team, whose dedication to public
47 safety has proven to be invaluable:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
49 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
50 acknowledge the critical service of the WTVA-Channel 9 Meteorology
51 Team, encourage continued support of WTVA and its local
52 meteorologists, and urge the continued commitment of Allen Media
53 Broadcasting to providing Northeast Mississippi with locally
54 staffed weather forecasting, ensuring that the community remains
55 informed, prepared, and safe in the face of severe weather by
56 trusted professionals who live and work in the area.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
58 furnished to Allen Media Broadcasting, WTVA Chief Meteorologist
59 Matt Laubhan and the WTVA Severe Weather Authority team and to the
60 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

