

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Blackmon, Blount,
England, Frazier, Hopson, McCaughn, McLendon,
Michel, Norwood, Simmons (12th), Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 140

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WLBT NEWSCASTER HOWARD BALLOU UPON
2 HIS RECEIPT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS MAB TELEVISION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
3 AWARD AND COMMENDING HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO BROADCASTING
4 IN MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, we join the television news industry in honoring the
6 incredible impact and career of WLBT Newscaster Howard Ballou; and

7 WHEREAS, on March 14, 2025, the Mississippi Association of
8 Broadcasters (MAB) surprised Howard Ballou on the air at WLBT by
9 presenting him with the MAB Television Lifetime Achievement Award.
10 This recognition is so well deserved. His dedication,
11 professionalism and contributions to broadcasting are truly
12 inspiring; and

13 WHEREAS, Howard Ballou has been in the broadcast journalism
14 profession for more than 30 years; and

15 WHEREAS, Howard has won several awards of excellence in his
16 field, including *United Press International's* "Best Documentary"
17 category for a report he did on *Tennessee Drunk Driving*
18 *Legislation*, three First-Place Mississippi *Associated Press*



Broadcasters Awards, Best Franchise reporting for his *Taking Back Our Neighborhoods* series of reports since 2009; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Ballou won Mississippi Associated Press Broadcasters First Place Best Documentary for *An Autograph for the Ages*. In 2007, Ballou was inducted into the Mississippi Associated Press Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame, having anchored and reported for the top-rated 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. newscasts since 1984. In 2017, he was presented a resolution by the Jackson City Council honoring and commending him for "preserving excellent stewardship in news journalism"; and

WHEREAS, Howard is the former President of the local chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists and is former Regional Director for the Society of Professional Journalists/Sigma Delta Chi. He is also very active in the community, serving on Boards of Directors of numerous charitable and civic organizations; and

WHEREAS, this is his second stint as primary anchor for the 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. newscasts at WLBT-TV. He now anchors the 5:00 p.m. newscast, as well. Howard also worked in broadcast journalism in Texas (KDFW-TV), Tennessee (WHBQ-TV), South Carolina (WFBC/WYFF-TV, WIS-TV) and North Carolina (WCCB-TV). For two years, Ballou anchored newscasts on two networks, Fox affiliate WDBD-TV (9:00 pm) and NBC affiliate WLBT-TV (5:00, 6:00 and 10:00 p.m.); and



43 WHEREAS, Howard is married to the former Deborah Thomas and
44 is the father of three sons: Brandon, Brian, and Blair. Howard
45 is an avid fisherman and loves to read good books and listen to
46 good music, especially jazz and classics; and

47 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we join the news media
48 in a well-deserved tribute to the excellence in journalism
49 evidenced by an award-winning broadcaster whose unbiased reporting
50 of state government brings honor to the State of Mississippi:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
52 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize WLBT Newscaster Howard
53 Ballou upon his receipt of the prestigious Mississippi Association
54 of Broadcasters Television Lifetime Achievement Award and commend
55 his outstanding contributions to broadcasting in Mississippi.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
57 Howard Ballou, forwarded to Television Station WLBT, and be made
58 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

