

By: Little, Kirby, Smith, Dawkins, Burton,
Chaney, Frazier, Hyde-Smith, Turner, Gordon,
Jackson, Furniss, Simmons, Lee, Walls, White
(29th), Nunnelee, Johnson (19th), Johnson
(38th), Cuevas, Blackmon, Scoper

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 591
(As Adopted by House and Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING PATRICK
2 COX, JR., OF PEARL, MISSISSIPPI, FOR EARNING THE "YES I CAN!"
3 INTERNATIONAL HONOR RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF
4 CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES.

5 WHEREAS, Patrick Cox, Jr., of Pearl, a champion cutting-horse
6 rider, has been named a recipient of the "Yes I Can!" award, an
7 international honor recognizing outstanding achievements of
8 children and youth with disabilities; and

9 WHEREAS, Patrick, 19, who is legally blind and wears a
10 hearing aid to compensate for a severe to profound hearing loss,
11 out of thousands of nominees from the United States, Canada and
12 Russia, is one of only 35 selected for the tribute this year by
13 the Foundation for Exceptional Children; and

14 WHEREAS, he will receive the award in an April 7 ceremony in
15 Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, from "Yes I Can!" spokesman
16 Neil Smith, an all-pro defensive end for the NFL's Denver Broncos;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Cox was nominated by Mississippi Lieutenant Governor
19 Amy Tuck, a friend of the Cox family, and Brenda Wagner, special
20 education director for Pearl public schools; and

21 WHEREAS, he entered formal competition for the first time
22 less than two years ago, and has since won several awards in the
23 exacting cutting-horse competition, including Dixie National
24 events in Jackson; and

25 WHEREAS, Patrick saddles up with a Velcro seatbelt and wears
26 a cowboy hat pulled over a batting helmet to protect his head; the
27 helmet is wired with voice-activated communicators, enabling his

28 trainer to tell him where to ride; the rider's reflexes must be
29 impeccable; and

30 WHEREAS, Patrick's next competition will be March 18, during
31 the National Cutting Horse Association's Chevy Trucks Eastern
32 National Championships in Jackson; it will be his last appearance
33 in youth competition, his father said; thereafter he will compete
34 as an adult; and

35 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
36 achievements of this remarkable young man who has brought honor to
37 his community, his fellow disabled youth and to the State of
38 Mississippi:

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
40 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
41 we do hereby commend and congratulate Patrick Cox, Jr., of Pearl,
42 Mississippi, for earning the "Yes I Can!" International Honor
43 recognizing outstanding achievements of children and youth with
44 disabilities, and wish him continued success in future
45 competitions and in all of his future endeavors.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
47 presented to Patrick and his family and be made available to the
48 Capitol Press Corps.