

By: Representatives Akins, Gadd, Jennings,
McBride, Pierce, Rogers (14th), Brown,
Barnett

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE
2 VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JIM BARKSDALE AND THE BARKSDALE READING
3 INSTITUTE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Mississippi native Jim Barksdale and his late wife,
5 Mississippi native Sally Barksdale, established the Barksdale
6 Reading Institute in January 2000, with an endowment of \$100
7 million; and

8 WHEREAS, this endowment, which is the largest private
9 investment in literacy in the nation's history, is designed to
10 improve the reading scores of Mississippi's public school
11 children before they leave the third grade; and

12 WHEREAS, a highly successful businessman, having served as
13 chief operating officer of FedEx Corporation, chief executive
14 officer of AT&T Wireless Corporation and president and chief
15 operating officer of Netscape Communications, Jim Barksdale, who
16 received his B.A. in business administration from the University
17 of Mississippi, currently serves on the boards of several major
18 companies across the country, including FedEx, Mayo Clinic and
19 Sun Microsystems; and

20 WHEREAS, after witnessing the successes of reading reform
21 programs in Texas and the "Success for All" programs in Baltimore,
22 Maryland, the Barksdales became convinced that such programs could
23 have a meaningful impact on the reading skills of children
24 nationwide; and

25 WHEREAS, a joint venture with the University of Mississippi
26 School of Education, the Mississippi Department of Education and
27 the state's seven other public university schools of education,

28 the institute is designed to dramatically improve the reading
29 skills of children through a systematic and direct implementation
30 of a research-based reading reform model; and

31 WHEREAS, recognizing that every child needs to be able to
32 read proficiently to be both an economically and socially
33 productive member of society, the Barksdales' gift has made it
34 possible for Mississippi's public schools, colleges and
35 universities to come together to implement systematic reform in
36 teaching schoolchildren to read; and

37 WHEREAS, because of the visionary efforts of Jim and Sally,
38 Barksdale Reading Institute currently works in 70 schools around
39 the state and, since its inception, has worked with over
40 50,000 children, some 3,000 teachers in Mississippi and has
41 expended over \$30 million on teacher training, provision of
42 tutors, books and other materials, parent outreach,
43 prekindergarten efforts, after-school programs, literacy research
44 and other literacy-related efforts; and

45 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this
46 information mogul and philanthropist whose impeccable desire for
47 educational achievement has garnered him great distinction as the
48 literacy ambassador for the State of Mississippi:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
50 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
51 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the valuable contributions of
52 Jim Barksdale and the Barksdale Reading Institute to the State of
53 Mississippi and extend our wishes for continued future success.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
55 furnished to Jim Barksdale, the Barksdale Reading Institute and to
56 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.