

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING HONORABLE CONSTANCE IONA  
2 SLAUGHTER-HARVEY FOR HER SPECIAL COMMUNITY SERVICE.

3 WHEREAS, on February 17, 2005, the Board of Trustees of State  
4 Institutions of Higher Learning honored Constance Slaughter-Harvey  
5 for her special community service, in honor of Black History  
6 Month; and

7 WHEREAS, Constance Slaughter-Harvey graduated from Hawkins  
8 High School in Forest, Mississippi, as Valedictorian of her 1963  
9 class. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and  
10 Economics, graduating Cum Laude from Tougaloo College in May 1967,  
11 and was elected as President of the Student Government  
12 Association, becoming the first female to serve in that capacity.  
13 She was the first African-American female to receive a law degree  
14 from The University of Mississippi (January 27, 1970); and

15 WHEREAS, upon graduation, she joined the Lawyers' Committee  
16 for Civil Rights Under Law as a Staff Attorney and worked there  
17 until 1972 when she returned to Forest, Mississippi, and  
18 established her private law practice. She was Executive Director  
19 of Southern Legal Rights and later became Director of East  
20 Mississippi Legal Services in 1979; and

21 WHEREAS, Constance Slaughter-Harvey is presently engaged in  
22 the practice of law and serves as President of Elections, Inc.  
23 She is also an Adjunct Professor at Tougaloo College; and

24 WHEREAS, in November 1999, she was honored with the  
25 establishment of the Constance Slaughter-Harvey Endowed Chair in  
26 Political Science/Pre-Law at Tougaloo College by banker and  
27 lifelong friend, Thomas Colbert, and wife, Ann; and

28           WHEREAS, Constance Slaughter-Harvey was honored having the  
29 Black Law Student Association named in her honor at The University  
30 of Mississippi in 1998. She was one of eight founders of the  
31 National Black Law Student Association in 1969 at Rutgers  
32 University in New Jersey. She is past President of the Magnolia  
33 Bar Association and recipient of the prestigious R.J. Brown Award;  
34 and

35           WHEREAS, Constance Slaughter-Harvey has received numerous  
36 awards and honors, some of which include: recipient of Susie Blue  
37 Buchanan Award, 2004; recipient of Mississippi Majesty Award,  
38 2003; honored as National Builder by the National Black Caucus of  
39 State Legislators, December 2002; elected Tougaloo College 2003  
40 Alumnae of the Year; elected to serve as Bar Commissioner for the  
41 Mississippi State Bar Association representing the Eighth Circuit  
42 Court District, 2002-2005; received The University of Mississippi  
43 Law School Public Service Award, December 2001; selected as the  
44 Mississippi Woman Lawyer of the Year, May 2001; selected as  
45 Mississippi Federated Women's District Woman of the Year, November  
46 2000; inducted into the Tougaloo College National Alumni  
47 Association Hall of Fame for Government and Law, October 2000;  
48 received the "Power of One" Award - Mississippi Women 2000 "Power  
49 of One" Conference, April 2000; selected as one of nine new  
50 inductees to the Mississippi Bar Foundation - distinguished honor  
51 of being Mississippi Bar Foundation Fellow, 2000; Mississippi Bar  
52 Fellow 1999 and Vice Chair of Mississippi Supreme Court Gender  
53 Task Force; and

54           WHEREAS, Constance Slaughter-Harvey's affiliations and  
55 memberships are numerous, and her governmental achievements  
56 include: founder and elected President of the National  
57 Association of State Election Directors (NASED) in 1991; the first  
58 African-American and first female member of the Motor Voter  
59 National Advisory Board, (1995); Coordinator of the Mississippi  
60 State Democratic Party Coordinating Committee (1995); Campaign

61 Manager for more than 50 local campaigns, including campaigns  
62 resulting in the first African-American female officeholders in  
63 the City of Forest and Scott County; appointed by President Jimmy  
64 Carter (1978) as a Presidential Scholars Commissioner; appointed  
65 Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Human Development  
66 under the Administration of William Winter (1980-1984); and

67 WHEREAS, Constance Slaughter-Harvey is an author and local  
68 and national speaker, weekly reporter (column for *The Scott County*  
69 *Times*); and

70 WHEREAS, Constance Slaughter-Harvey is to be commended and  
71 accorded the highest accolades for the distinction and honor she  
72 has brought to our state and the nation in furthering the cause of  
73 justice and equality for all citizens:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
75 MISSISSIPPI, That we take great pride in recognizing Honorable  
76 Constance Iona Slaughter-Harvey for her untiring efforts and  
77 commitment to preserve the heritage of African-Americans and for  
78 her community service to all citizens of the State of Mississippi.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
80 Constance Iona Slaughter-Harvey in recognition of her lifelong  
81 work, be forwarded to the Board of Trustees of State Institutions  
82 of Higher Learning and the Chancellor of the University of  
83 Mississippi, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.