

By: Senator(s) Gollott

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING BUDDY SHEFFIELD AS  
2 HONOREE OF THE "BILOXIAN MADE GOOD" AWARD PRESENTED BY THE BILOXI  
3 BAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

4 WHEREAS, the Biloxi Bay Chamber is sponsoring the "Biloxian  
5 Made Good" Award, which will be held on Thursday, August 25, 2005,  
6 at the Biloxi Community Center. The honoree for the year is  
7 well-known screenwriter Buddy Sheffield; and

8 WHEREAS, Buddy Sheffield was always interested in the  
9 theatre. While attending Biloxi High School (BHS), he and his  
10 brother David, and a small band of others, started the Thespian  
11 Club. In addition to the plays produced by the club, Buddy was  
12 also in a major musical, *Camelot*, at BHS in 1967. His senior  
13 year, Buddy was named "Wittiest Boy" and was Assistant Editor of  
14 the HI TIDE. Sheffield was awarded a scholarship to the summer  
15 theatre program at The University of Southern Mississippi (USM)  
16 and started college only three days after graduating from Biloxi  
17 High School; and

18 WHEREAS, at USM, Buddy was very active in technical theatre  
19 as well as acting and was awarded the Louis Gertler Award for  
20 proficiency in technical theatre two years in a row. While still  
21 a student, Buddy and his then wife Rita, began a children's  
22 theater company. The company, which was to become known as SET  
23 (Sheffield Ensemble Theatre) began touring local schools for 25  
24 cents per student and grew to become the most popular theatre for  
25 youth in America, touring the nation for 36 weeks each year and  
26 playing at such venues as The Kennedy Center and The Detroit

27 Institute of the Arts. The company was based in Biloxi and  
28 proudly carried the name of its home city everywhere it went; and

29 WHEREAS, SET also produced plays and musicals in its home  
30 theatre on Lameuse Street as well as at the Saenger Theatre on  
31 Reynoir. Buddy was on the Board of Directors for the Saenger  
32 Theatre for six years and was instrumental in the theater's  
33 restoration. In the summer of 1978, SET produced a season of  
34 plays, including the musical *The Robber Bridegroom* and *Biloxi*, an  
35 historical play written by David Sheffield; and

36 WHEREAS, the children's theatre continued to tour and won the  
37 Sara Spenser Child Drama Cup, awarded by The Southeastern Theatre  
38 Conference and the very prestigious Jennie Heiden Award, given by  
39 The American Theatre Association. Buddy wrote several original  
40 musicals such as *Bananas*, *Beans*, *Feats* and *Videosyncrasies* which  
41 became hits with kids all over America; and after a while, the  
42 company played almost exclusively to repeat customers. In the  
43 Summer of 1984, SET was a primary entertainment contractor for The  
44 Louisiana World Exposition in New Orleans; and

45 WHEREAS, Buddy moved to the West Coast to try his luck, was  
46 hired by the first television show he applied to, and began an  
47 uninterrupted career as a screenwriter which has continued for  
48 twenty years. Most notably, Buddy was Head Writer for *In Living*  
49 *Color* on the Fox network, and Buddy was also a writer on *Dolly*, a  
50 variety show on ABC starring Dolly Parton; and

51 WHEREAS, in 1992, Buddy created and produced a show called  
52 *Roundhouse* for Nickelodeon. It was a ground-breaking show and is  
53 considered by some to be the most creative show ever to appear on  
54 television. Buddy was Head Writer and Executive Producer for 56  
55 episodes. In his career, Buddy received three Emmy nominations,  
56 four Cable ACE nominations, one Cable ACE Award, one Ollie Award  
57 given by the American Center for Children's Television and one  
58 NAACP Image Award; and

59           WHEREAS, Buddy is very happy to be once again working with  
60 his brother, David. The brothers have teamed up and are currently  
61 writing a pilot for HBO entitled *Ruthless Debutantes*, which takes  
62 place in New Orleans' French Quarter. Buddy's heart has always  
63 been in the live theatre and, after many years, he is making a  
64 return to the stage, where he has written the book, music and  
65 lyrics to a new Broadway musical, *Idaho*; and

66           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the unique  
67 accomplishments of this famous Mississippian, whose talent has  
68 brought honor to his community and to the State of Mississippi:

69           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
70 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate respected  
71 screenwriter Buddy Sheffield as the honoree of the "Biloxian Made  
72 Good" Award presented by the Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce, and  
73 extend to him and his family the best wishes of the Senate for  
74 success in his future endeavors.

75           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
76 Buddy Sheffield at ceremonies on August 25, 2005, and be made  
77 available to the Capitol Press Corps.