

By: Senator(s) Wilemon

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING BELINDA HOUSTON OF
2 PRENTISS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, FOR RECEIVING THE TOASTMASTERS
3 INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENTIAL CITATION FOR 2004-2005.

4 WHEREAS, Belinda Houston, resident of Prentiss County, and a
5 native of Cleveland, Mississippi, was honored recently by
6 Toastmasters International; and

7 WHEREAS, Toastmasters International is a nonprofit
8 educational organization that provides members a comfortable,
9 friendly atmosphere to practice public speaking and leadership
10 skills. Members achieve regular recognition as they complete
11 levels which take them from merely learning to be comfortable in
12 front of a group to advanced projects involving their workplace,
13 community or District-wide conferences. There are over 10,000
14 clubs worldwide and over 200,000 members in 100 countries; and

15 WHEREAS, at the International Convention during Toastmaster
16 Year 2004-2005, Ted Corcoran of Dublin, Ireland, the 2003-2004
17 International President of Toastmasters International, awarded
18 Belinda with the Presidential Citation. This is one of the
19 highest honors awarded by Toastmasters International; and

20 WHEREAS, in presenting the award, Corcoran said, "Belinda is
21 a dedicated Toastmaster committed to her district's success. She
22 epitomizes the values and professionalism of our organization. As
23 District Governor, she motivated her district team to achieve
24 Distinguished District, and she is again serving as a District
25 Officer, working to make the district successful"; and

26 WHEREAS, she joined Toastmasters in 1991 and has held almost
27 every office of the club as well as the top three offices in the
28 District. All officers are volunteers; and

29 WHEREAS, she earned the Area Governor of the Year Award in
30 1993-1994; in 1994-1995, she served as Division Governor; in
31 1995-1996 and 1996-1997, she served as Public Relations Officer;
32 in 1997-1998, she served as Lt. Governor Marketing; in 1998-1999,
33 as District Governor of District 43, she led the District to
34 Distinguished District status; in 2003-2004, as Lt. Governor
35 Marketing, she earned the Excellence in Marketing Award; and

36 WHEREAS, Belinda presently holds the second highest office in
37 the District, Lt. Governor Education and Training, and has earned
38 the Excellence in Education and Training Award for 2004-2005. She
39 takes office again July 1 as District Governor for the July 1,
40 2005 - June 30, 2006, Toastmaster Year. She is also President of
41 the Tupelo Toastmasters Club; and

42 WHEREAS, during her 14 years as a Toastmaster, she has
43 sponsored and mentored new clubs and new club members. District
44 43 covers the area from Vicksburg, Jackson and Meridian north in
45 Mississippi, west of the Tennessee River in Tennessee, and all of
46 Arkansas. There are 77 clubs in District 43. In her current
47 position, Belinda travels the three states conducting club officer
48 training and educational sessions; and

49 WHEREAS, Belinda, the former Belinda Norwood, graduated from
50 Cleveland High School in 1955. She retired from the Internal
51 Revenue Service in Memphis, Tennessee, on December 31, 1999, and
52 moved to the Burton Community east of Booneville, Mississippi,
53 where she lives with her husband, N.B. Houston. She is active and
54 has varied interests. She is President of the Burton Community
55 Historical Society, Vice President of the Mississippi Canine
56 Coalition, Inc., Secretary of the Senior Citizens Fellowship
57 Group, and writes part-time for the *Banner Independent* newspaper
58 in Booneville; and

59 WHEREAS, it is with pride that we recognize the special
60 recognition received by this Mississippian whose civic
61 contributions have brought honor to her community and to the State
62 of Mississippi:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
64 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Belinda
65 Houston of Prentiss County, Mississippi, for receiving the
66 Toastmasters International Presidential Citation for 2004-2005,
67 and extend to her the best wishes of the Senate in her future
68 civic endeavors.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
70 Belinda Houston and her family and be made available to the
71 Capitol Press Corps.