

By: Senator(s) Dawkins,  
Gollott, Hewes, Harden,  
Robertson, Moffatt, Little,  
Turner, Chaney, Cuevas,  
Tollison, Burton, Pickering,  
Morgan, Posey, Williamson,  
Albritton, Browning, Butler,  
Dearing, Frazier, Gordon,  
Horhn, Hyde-Smith, Jackson  
(11th), Jackson (15th),  
Jackson (32nd), Lee (35th),  
Mettetal, Walls, White

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 503

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING *THE SUN*  
2 *HERALD* IN GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, UPON ITS RECEIPT OF THE  
3 PRESTIGIOUS PULITZER PRIZE FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDED FOR ITS  
4 COVERAGE OF THE CATASTROPHIC HURRICANE KATRINA EVENTS AND FOR  
5 PROVIDING A LIFELINE FOR ITS DEVASTATED READERS.

6 WHEREAS, on Monday, April 17, 2006, *The Sun Herald* in  
7 Gulfport, Mississippi, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Public  
8 Service for its coverage under difficult circumstances of the  
9 catastrophic Hurricane Katrina, which devastated its area along  
10 the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and

11 WHEREAS, in the public service category which is considered  
12 the highest honor, the Pulitzer Board praised *The Sun Herald* (and  
13 *The Times-Picayune* of New Orleans) "for providing a lifeline for  
14 devastated readers in print and online during their time of  
15 greatest need." Both newspapers rejoiced over their Gold Medals,  
16 but out of respect for the deaths caused by Hurricane Katrina and  
17 the hardships borne by their staffs, the celebration was low-key;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Executive Editor Stan Tiner told employees gathered  
20 in the newsroom shortly after they erupted in applause at the  
21 announcement. "You are truly the best, and to this newsroom I say  
22 this: Never have so few worked so hard and so long to tell such a  
23 story - an unending story. This Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal is  
24 dedicated to the people of South Mississippi whose magnificent  
25 hearts and spirit moved us every day that we have been privileged  
26 to tell the story of their struggle and triumphs," he said. "They  
27 will not be defeated, not by Katrina, or anything"; and

28           WHEREAS, three of the newspaper's editors were listed as  
29 finalists for a prize in editorial writing; and

30           WHEREAS, Publisher Rickey Mathews and Stan Tiner praised the  
31 entire paper's staff, and parent company Knight Ridder, for their  
32 hard work keeping the paper running and printing - not missing a  
33 single day's publication - and keeping the staff fed and sheltered  
34 for weeks afterward. "This award is almost as surreal as it was  
35 driving down the beach after the storm," said *Sun Herald* Vice  
36 President of Operations Marlene Kler. "I don't know if people can  
37 fully imagine what people at this newspaper went through  
38 personally, but put it aside to serve the community"; and

39           WHEREAS, Governor Haley Barbour congratulated the paper: "No  
40 newspaper ever deserved a Pulitzer Prize for public service any  
41 more than *The Sun Herald*, "The newspaper's management and staff  
42 lived through the darkest hours of Hurricane Katrina with its  
43 readers, forming a oneness that continues to this day. Even in  
44 the most adverse conditions imaginable, the newspaper never missed  
45 a beat as a valued source of vital information for its readers.  
46 Indeed, it never missed publishing even one day"; and

47           WHEREAS, *The Sun Herald* had a pre-hurricane circulation of  
48 47,000 daily and 55,000 on Sunday, and has regained most of its  
49 circulation. This is the first Pulitzer Prize for *The Sun Herald*;  
50 and

51           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this  
52 singular achievement by this newspaper and its dedicated staff,  
53 who represent the courage, spirit, love and hope of the citizens  
54 of the Mississippi Gulf Coast as they stand and begin the journey  
55 to their future with sweat and dignity:

56           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
58 we do hereby commend and congratulate *The Sun Herald* in Gulfport,  
59 Mississippi, its publishers, managers and staff, upon their  
60 receipt of the prestigious Pulitzer Prize for public service

61 awarded for their coverage of the catastrophic events of Hurricane  
62 Katrina and for providing a lifeline for devastated readers in the  
63 aftermath of the hurricane, and extend to them the best wishes of  
64 the Legislature in their future public service endeavors.

65 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
66 the managers and staff of *The Sun Herald* and be made available to  
67 members of the Capitol Press Corps.