By: Senator(s) Hopson, Butler, Fillingane, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 35

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH SERATT OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI, FOR BEING NAMED A DISTINGUISHED FINALIST IN THE 2009 PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Seratt of Vicksburg, Mississippi, has been recognized as one of the top youth volunteers in Mississippi by being named a Distinguished Finalist in the 14th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards; and

WHEREAS, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), are designed to emphasize the importance our nation places on service to others, and to encourage young Americans of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Seratt, 18, of Vicksburg, a member of the Girl Scouts Heart of the South Council in Memphis, Tennessee, and a senior at Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus, created a program that encourages generous pet lovers to contribute to a fund that enables prospective and current pet owners of limited means to sterilize their pets at little or no cost. Through her program, called "Pet Partners," Elizabeth has raised nearly $1,500.00 to offset the cost of spaying 25 animals, which could then be adopted into loving homes; and

WHEREAS, as a Distinguished Finalist in this year's program, Elizabeth Seratt will receive an engraved bronze medallion at a local ceremony. Students like Elizabeth Seratt represent the best of America's youth, and are role models to their peers and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards represent the United States' largest youth recognition program based solely on volunteer service. The program is part of a broad youth service initiative by Prudential that includes a youth leadership training program administered by the Points of Light Institute; a free booklet of volunteer ideas for young people offered through the Federal Citizen Information Center; and a Web site featuring profiles of outstanding youth volunteers, volunteer tips and project ideas for students, an electronic newspaper on youth volunteerism, and more (spirit.prudential.com). The Spirit of Community Awards program also is conducted by Prudential subsidiaries in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Ireland; and

WHEREAS, "People as caring and committed as these young students are critical to the future of our neighborhoods, our cities and our nation," said Arthur Ryan, Chairman and CEO of Prudential. "By recognizing these honorees, we hope to encourage other young people - our future leaders - and all Americans to think more about the value and importance of volunteering in their communities"; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Mississippi, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of American society depend, in great measure, upon the dedication of young people like Elizabeth Seratt, who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Elizabeth Seratt of the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science as a recipient of a Prudential Spirit of Community Award, recognizing her outstanding record of volunteer service, peer leadership and community spirit, and extend the best wishes of the Senate for her continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to Elizabeth Seratt, be forwarded to the Principal of Mississippi

School for Mathematics and Science and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.