

Senate Resolution 1232

By: Senators Orrock of the 36th, Fort of the 39th, Williams of the 19th, Jones of the 10th, Tate of the 38th and others

#### A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Mr. Douglas Blackmon; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Mr. Douglas Blackmon has long been recognized for his journalistic integrity,  
3 his insightful coverage of issues, and his passion for writing about past and present race  
4 relations in America; and

5 WHEREAS, over the past 20 years, Mr. Blackmon has written extensively about the  
6 American quandary of race, exploring the integration of schools that took place during his  
7 childhood in a Mississippi Delta farm town, lost episodes of the Civil Rights Movement, and  
8 how contemporary society should handle its troubled past; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Blackmon wrote his first newspaper story for the *Progress*, a newspaper  
10 in his hometown of Leland, Mississippi, at the age of 12 and earned a bachelor's degree from  
11 Hendrix College; and

12 WHEREAS, he began his distinguished career in journalism as a reporter for the *Arkansas*  
13 *Democrat*, served as managing editor of the *Daily Record* in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was  
14 a writer for weekly newspapers; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. Blackmon served as a reporter for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, where  
16 he covered race and politics and special assignments, including the fall of the Berlin Wall  
17 and the civil war in the former Yugoslavia; and

18 WHEREAS, he joined *The Wall Street Journal* in 1995 as a reporter in the Atlanta bureau,  
19 covering key news and issues in the 11-state region, including race, immigration, poverty,  
20 and politics; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Blackmon currently serves as *The Wall Street Journal's* bureau chief in  
22 Atlanta, where he manages the paper's coverage of airlines and other major transportation

23 companies and publicly traded companies and institutions based in the southeastern United  
24 States; and

25 WHEREAS, in 2000, Mr. Blackmon was recognized by the National Association of Black  
26 Journalists for his stories revealing the secret role of J.P. Morgan and Company during the  
27 1960's in funneling funds between a wealthy northern white supremacist and segregationists  
28 fighting the Civil Rights Movement in the South; and

29 WHEREAS, a year later, he revealed how the U.S. Steel Corporation relied on forced black  
30 laborers in Alabama coal mines in the early 20th century, which led to his first book, *Slavery*  
31 *By Another Name*, examining how a form of neoslavery survived in the United States long  
32 after it was legally abolished, and which was included in the 2003 edition of *Best Business*  
33 *Stories*; and

34 WHEREAS, the stories written by Mr. Blackmon and his team at the *Journal* have garnered  
35 worldwide acclaim for in-depth coverage of the subprime meltdown, Hurricane Katrina, and  
36 the Florida hurricanes of 2004; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Blackmon has been recognized with numerous awards and honors during  
38 his prestigious journalism career, including a Pulitzer Prize for General Notification; and

39 WHEREAS, Mr. Blackmon has dedicated his career to providing readers with insightful and  
40 thought-provoking journalism, and his many achievements are worthy of recognition.

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body  
42 commend the amazing career of Mr. Douglas Blackmon and recognize his gifted journalistic  
43 abilities.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed  
45 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Douglas Blackmon.