



Office of the Minority Leader

Rep. Mike Hubbard

Room 230 Alabama State House • Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Office: 334.353.1046 • Fax: 334.353.3125

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2007

Contact: Rep. Jack Williams
(205)314-7909

REP. JACK WILLIAMS INTRODUCES RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING BIRMINGHAM JOURNALIST FOR PULITZER PRIZE WIN

Montgomery – Rep. Jack Williams (R – Vestavia Hills) introduced a House Joint Resolution this week commending Birmingham News journalist Brett Blackledge for winning a Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting.

“With his tenacious reporting, Brett Blackledge has pulled back the curtain on how our two-year college system operates and has brought a measure of transparency to state government,” Williams said. “I am proud to introduce this resolution and give him the recognition he richly deserves.”

Blackledge received the Pulitzer Prize for a series of investigative journalism focusing on the hiring and fiscal practices of Alabama’s two-year college system. His reporting uncovered several incidents of nepotism, corruption and financial mismanagement within the system.

House Minority Leader Mike Hubbard (R – Auburn) also commended Blackledge for his reporting and said he hopes the resolution will be considered by the House quickly.

“Brett Blackledge uncovered waste, fraud, abuse and serious criminal activity, and his work will hopefully save millions of taxpayer dollars from being further abused,” Hubbard said. “This resolution should receive quick approval from the full House.”

A similar resolution, HJR340 by Rep. John Knight (D – Montgomery), was approved by the House on April 26 to recognize Alabama native Cynthia Tucker for a Pulitzer Prize she was awarded for commentary.

Williams’ resolution, HJR436, now goes to the House Rules Committee for consideration.

The text of the resolution reads:

WHEREAS, with highest commendation we recognize Mr. Brett Blackledge as recipient of The Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting concerning Alabama's community colleges, the highest award in American journalism, and a singular honor of utmost significance; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackledge joins an impressive roster of Alabamians who have excelled in the written word, and this admirable accomplishment adds to the long line of literary achievement that the state proudly claims; and

MORE

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackledge earned a Journalism Degree from Louisiana State University in 1986 and began his career with The Associated Press in New Orleans; he later was employed with the Associated Press bureaus in Mississippi and Oklahoma and The Journal Newspapers and Education Daily in Washington, D.C., covering the White House, the United States Congress, and the United States Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, he joined The Mobile Register staff as a local government reporter and, in 1998, began a successful and rewarding journalism career as a general assignment and special projects reporter for The Birmingham News; and

WHEREAS, Brett Blackledge is indeed esteemed among his colleagues for this ultimate professional achievement and it is appropriate to extend to this dedicated and diligent newspaper man commendation and congratulations; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That in recognition of longtime service as a newspaper journalist, and as winner of The Pulitzer Prize, we hereby most highly commend Brett Blackledge, for whom a copy of this resolution is provided with our sincere regard and admiration.