

By: Representative Ishee

To: Ways and Means

## HOUSE BILL NO. 280

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 27-19-56.12, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF  
2 1972, TO AUTHORIZE WIDOWS OF VETERANS TO RETAIN DISTINCTIVE MOTOR  
3 VEHICLE LICENSE TAGS UPON THE DEATH OF THEIR SPOUSE; TO REQUIRE  
4 THE SURVIVING SPOUSE WHO DESIRES TO RETAIN THE DISTINCTIVE TAG TO  
5 FILE WITH THE TAX COLLECTOR A SWORN STATEMENT THAT THE SPOUSE IS  
6 UNMARRIED; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 SECTION 1. Section 27-19-56.12, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
9 amended as follows:

10 27-19-56.12. In recognition of the patriotic service  
11 rendered by Mississippians who are honorably discharged veterans  
12 who served in the United States Armed Forces in Saudi Arabia or  
13 Kuwait during Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield,  
14 in Panama during the invasion, in Grenada during the invasion,  
15 during the Vietnam Conflict, during the Korean Conflict, during  
16 World War II or during World War I, any such person is privileged  
17 to obtain one (1) distinctive motor vehicle license plate or tag  
18 identifying him as a veteran. The State Tax Commission is further  
19 authorized to develop a decal to be affixed to the license tag  
20 indicating the veteran's service in the above enumerated wars or  
21 conflicts. The distinctive plates or tags shall be of a color and  
22 design designated by the Tax Commission.

23 The distinctive license plates shall be prepared by the Tax  
24 Commission and shall be issued through the tax collectors of the  
25 counties in the same manner as are other motor vehicle license  
26 plates or tags. An additional tag fee of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00)  
27 shall be collected by the tax collector for such license plates or  
28 tags and shall be forwarded to the Tax Commission which shall

29 deposit such fee to the credit of a fund to be administered by the  
30 board overseeing the veterans nursing homes in this state for the  
31 benefit of indigent veterans who are residents of such nursing  
32 homes.

33 An applicant for such distinctive plates shall present to the  
34 issuing official written evidence of the veteran's service. Such  
35 evidence shall include a copy of the applicant's DD-214 form or an  
36 equivalent document. The distinctive license plates or tags so  
37 issued shall be used only upon a personally or jointly owned  
38 private passenger vehicle (to include station wagons, recreational  
39 motor vehicles and pickup trucks) registered in the name, or  
40 jointly in the name, of the person making application therefor,  
41 and when issued to such person shall be used upon the vehicle for  
42 which issued in lieu of the standard license plate or license tag  
43 normally issued for such vehicle.

44 The distinctive license plates shall not be transferable  
45 between motor vehicle owners; and in the event the owner of a  
46 vehicle bearing a distinctive plate shall sell, trade, exchange or  
47 otherwise dispose of the vehicle, such plate shall be retained by  
48 such owner and returned to the tax collector. However, the  
49 surviving spouse of a deceased person, who was issued a license  
50 plate or tag under this section, shall be entitled to apply for or  
51 retain a license issued under this section and may continue  
52 annually to renew registration for one (1) motor vehicle license  
53 plate or tag under this section for as long as the spouse remains  
54 unmarried. At the time of application or renewal registration, a  
55 surviving spouse, who desires to retain the distinctive plate or  
56 tag issued under this section, shall file, with the county tax  
57 collector, a sworn statement that the spouse is unmarried.

58 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from  
59 and after July 1, 1999.