

By: Representatives Moody, Ford

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 94

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF WORLD WAR II
2 VETERAN, MR. EDDIE RUSSELL, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS
3 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Eddie Russell departed this life on February 4,
5 2002, causing great sorrow and loss to his family and friends; and

6 WHEREAS, a native of Mt. Olive, Mississippi, Mr. Russell was
7 the son of Mr. Edmond Russell and Mrs. Maggie Jane Dickson
8 Russell, born April 15, 1920; and

9 WHEREAS, high school historian and all around athletic
10 standout, Mr. Russell epitomized raw talent, lettering in three
11 sports: football, where he served as cocaptain; basketball,
12 serving as captain; and track; and

13 WHEREAS, spending his summers in Citizen's Military Training
14 Camp and the coastal artillery batteries, Mr. Russell turned down
15 numerous collegiate athletic scholarships, enlisting in 1940 in
16 the United States Armed Forces in the fight against Hitler in
17 World War II; and

18 WHEREAS, Mr. Russell, undergoing boot camp training at
19 Barksdale, Louisiana, progressed through the Aircraft Armament and
20 Radio Schools, which began a life-long love of flying; and

21 WHEREAS, as the highest ranking enlisted member and third
22 among all cadets of the United State's first war-time pre-flight
23 training class, Mr. Russell was selected as one of the first
24 enlisted pilots, graduating from Ellington Field, Texas, on August
25 5, 1942, as staff sergeant pilot; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Russell, upon graduating, flew paratroop
27 trainees at Pope Field, North Carolina, before being sent in



28 February 1943 to North Africa to fly in supplies and evacuate the
29 wounded; and

30 WHEREAS, in August 1943, Mr. Russell became the personal
31 pilot to British Field Marshall, Viscount B.L. Montgomery,
32 remaining with him throughout the Sicily campaign, and personally
33 witnessing the German surrender; and

34 WHEREAS, having the privilege to fly notable war figures,
35 including General Omar Bradley, and meeting Prime Minister
36 Churchill and Generals Eisenhower and Patton, Mr. Russell was the
37 first American awarded the Air Force Cross during World War II for
38 skill and bravery in negotiating difficult flights at the front
39 line; and

40 WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Russell served as Assistant Chief
41 of Staff for Pacific transport operations and served as a
42 Lieutenant Colonel in 1947, with other decorations including the
43 Bronze Star; and

44 WHEREAS, Mr. Russell, while serving as a captain with China
45 National Aviation Corporation, met his beloved wife, Anita, in
46 1949, rescuing her as Shanghai fell, and marrying her on April 5,
47 1950, in Rome, Italy; and

48 WHEREAS, training pilots in Greenville, Mississippi, during
49 the Korean War, Mr. Russell was sent to Indonesia as Flight
50 Training Director from 1952 to 1955; and

51 WHEREAS, upon his return home, Mr. Russell became a corporate
52 pilot in Jackson and Marks, Mississippi, working until 1971, when
53 he retired with more than 19,000 flight hours; and

54 WHEREAS, Mr. Russell, a member of the Quiet Birdmen and the
55 Flying Sergeants Association, was preceded in death by his loving
56 and devoted wife, Anita, and his eight brothers and sisters; and

57 WHEREAS, the memories of Mr. Russell will continue to live on
58 in the life of his survivors, including: daughter, Giselle
59 Russell; son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Kay Russell; and
60 grandson, Samuel; and



61 WHEREAS, the Legislature finds it most appropriate to pay
62 special tribute to such an outstanding man as Mr. Eddie Russell, a
63 man who dedicated his life to serving this nation and his family:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
65 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
66 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life of Mr. Eddie Russell,
67 and express our deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon
68 his passing.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
70 furnished to the family of Mr. Eddie Russell and the members of
71 the Capitol Press Corps.

