

By: Representatives Reynolds, Huddleston,
McBride

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 67

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SPECIALIST RAPHAEL SEPTIEN DAVIS AND EXPRESSING
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Specialist Raphael S. Davis, of Tutwiler,
5 Mississippi, born on November 17, 1979, to Betty Pimpton and
6 Clifton Bailey, Sr., departed this earthly life on December 2,
7 2003, while serving the United States in furtherance of "Operation
8 Iraqi Freedom," causing great sorrow and loss to his family and
9 friends; and

10 WHEREAS, a 1998 graduate of West Tallahatchie High School,
11 Specialist Davis was a member of the 223rd Engineer Battalion of
12 the Mississippi Army National Guard, attached to Company C,
13 Detachment 1; and

14 WHEREAS, Specialist Davis began his military career when he
15 joined the Mississippi Army National Guard with his brother
16 Clifton Bailey, Jr., on July 27, 2001, under the "buddy system";
17 and

18 WHEREAS, when the 223rd Engineer Battalion was mobilized in
19 late January 2003, and deployed overseas in March, Specialist
20 Davis and his brother, Specialist Bailey made the fateful journey
21 to Iraq together; and

22 WHEREAS, known for his avid sportsmanship and fierce
23 competitiveness, Specialist Davis possessed great athleticism,
24 which was evidenced in his years of play on the West Tallahatchie
25 Choctaws Football Team as a running back; and

26 WHEREAS, his zeal for sports was complemented by his personal
27 determination to do his best in any endeavor, which he did

28 wholeheartedly, thus sparking his interest to enroll at Hinds
29 Community College before transferring to Holmes Community College,
30 in pursuit of a career in electronic engineering; and

31 WHEREAS, a fun-loving, happy-go-lucky and independent-minded
32 individual, Specialist Davis will be remembered most for his
33 positive and upbeat attitude shared during his last moments in
34 conversation with family and friends; and

35 WHEREAS, having lost his life in battle, Specialist Davis was
36 the tenth Mississippi soldier, the second Mississippi Guardsman
37 and the first member of the 223rd Battalion, since its
38 organization in 1954, to be lost in combat; and

39 WHEREAS, Specialist Davis was awarded the Bronze Star with
40 valor and a Purple Heart, which was posthumously presented to his
41 family; and

42 WHEREAS, a loving son, father, brother and friend, Specialist
43 Davis will be sorely missed by those who experienced the depth of
44 his love, commitment and compassion for life and pursuit of
45 freedom for all, but the legacy of his memory will forever be
46 etched in the hearts and memories of his survivors, including:
47 his mother, Betty Pimpton; father, Clifton Bailey, Sr.;
48 stepfather, Reverend Dr. Ilanda Pimpton; stepmother, Elaine
49 Bailey; children, Ravin, Raphael, Jr., and Razavier; brothers,
50 Lamonte Harris, Clifton Bailey, Jr., Bernard Berryhill, Cedric
51 Davis, Demarcus Davis, Xavier Bailey, Taierry Brown, Aveail
52 Wallace, Stevie Hill, Terrence Steele and Maurice Steele; two
53 sisters, Wynde Bailey and Primie Stevenson; grandparents, Leroy
54 Scurlock, Rutha Bailey and Louise Davis; and a host of other
55 relatives and friends; and

56 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
57 and commend excellence in such outstanding Mississippians as
58 evidenced by the life and merits of Specialist Davis, whose gift
59 to this state and nation was the ultimate sacrifice of life in
60 order that others may have the opportunity to experience a life of

61 freedom, peace and prosperity that we as citizens of the Great
62 State of Mississippi and these United States of America are
63 privileged to share daily:

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, services and
67 accomplishments of Specialist Raphael Septien Davis and express
68 our deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

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