

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING ALL MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL
2 GUARD TROOPS SERVING THE UNITED STATES, BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ON
3 FOREIGN SOIL AND ENCOURAGING THE CITIZENS OF MISSISSIPPI TO
4 SUPPORT AND CONTACT SERVICEMEN CURRENTLY DEPLOYED.

5 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature wishes to acknowledge
6 the many sacrifices made by the thousands of members of the
7 Mississippi National Guard and other military reserve
8 organizations based in Mississippi in the war against terrorism
9 that is being waged by the United States both at home and
10 overseas; and

11 WHEREAS, Mississippi's citizens have always been more than
12 willing to serve their country during times of conflict across the
13 world, and many have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives
14 in times of war; and

15 WHEREAS, the United States Military is in the process of
16 engaging in the war against terrorism both at home and overseas,
17 which has included thousands of Mississippi Guardsmen; and

18 WHEREAS, the Mississippi National Guard, upon receiving only
19 a few days' notice in many cases, has embarked upon both missions
20 to secure and preserve peace and to protect the lives and
21 interests of all Americans, thus exhibiting the high caliber and
22 readiness of our state's troops; and

23 WHEREAS, most of these servicemen are "citizen soldiers" who
24 have undergone extensive training through their respective
25 National Guard units while maintaining a living and raising
26 families of their own in the private world; and

27 WHEREAS, 485 members of Task Force Rifles, headquartered in
28 McComb, Mississippi, and composed of soldiers from across the

29 State of Mississippi, were called to active service to serve
30 abroad, and successfully completed a tour of duty in Bosnia and
31 Herzegovina; and

32 WHEREAS, 83 members of Company C, 2nd Battalion, 20th Special
33 Forces Group, headquartered in Elliot, Mississippi, were called to
34 service abroad, and successfully completing a tour of duty
35 defeating the Taliban regime in Afghanistan; and

36 WHEREAS, 109 members of the 114th Military Police Company,
37 headquartered in Clinton, Mississippi, were called to active
38 service abroad, successfully completing a tour of duty at
39 Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and subsequently completing a follow-on tour
40 at Fort Hood, Texas; and

41 WHEREAS, 17 members of the 220th Finance Detachment,
42 headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, were called to service
43 abroad, and successfully completing a tour of duty in Bosnia and
44 Herzegovina; and

45 WHEREAS, 29 members of the 210th Finance Battalion and 19
46 members of the 230th Finance Detachment, both headquartered in
47 Jackson, Mississippi, were called to active service and
48 successfully completed a tour of duty providing financial support
49 at Fort Hood, Texas; and

50 WHEREAS, 45 members of the 31st Rear Operations Center,
51 headquartered in Jackson, were called to active service to serve
52 abroad, and successfully completed a tour of duty in Kuwait and
53 Iraq; and

54 WHEREAS, 146 members of the 113th Military Police Company,
55 headquartered in Brandon, Mississippi, were called to active
56 service to serve abroad and successfully completed a tour of duty
57 in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan, becoming the most
58 mobilized unit in the Mississippi Army National Guard over the
59 past ten years; and

60 WHEREAS, 22 pilots of Company D, 159th Aviation,
61 headquartered in Tupelo, Mississippi, were called to active

62 service to serve abroad, successfully completing several missions
63 that include the operation which resulted in the deaths of Odai
64 and Qusai Hussein; and

65 WHEREAS, 647 members of the 223rd Engineer Battalion,
66 headquartered in West Point, Mississippi, with six other
67 locations, including Aberdeen, Calhoun City, Bruce, Charleston,
68 Webb and Clarksdale, were called to active duty to serve abroad,
69 and successfully completed a tour of duty in Iraq while restoring
70 critical services to the Iraqi people; and

71 WHEREAS, 191 members of the 2nd Battalion, 20th Special
72 Forces Group, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, were called
73 to active service to serve abroad, successfully conducting
74 approximately 1,000 combat missions in Afghanistan resulting in
75 the death or capture of more than 500 Al Qaeda operatives; and

76 WHEREAS, 17 members of Special Operations Detachment South,
77 headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, were called to active duty
78 to serve abroad, and successfully completed their tour of duty
79 overseas; and

80 WHEREAS, six members of Company K, 185th Aviation,
81 headquartered at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, and a detachment in
82 Southaven were called to active service to serve abroad; and

83 WHEREAS, seven members of Company I, 185th Aviation,
84 headquartered in Gulfport, Mississippi, were called to active duty
85 to serve abroad; and

86 WHEREAS, 170 members of the 1st Battalion, 204th Air Defense
87 Artillery, headquartered in Newton, Mississippi, were called to
88 active duty to protect the skies over our nation's capitol in
89 Washington, D.C.; and

90 WHEREAS, 76 members of the 168th Engineer Group,
91 headquartered in Vicksburg, Mississippi, were called to active
92 duty to serve abroad in Iraq; and

93 WHEREAS, 650 members of the 890th Engineer Battalion,
94 headquartered in Gulfport, Mississippi, with seven other

95 locations, including Picayune, Pascagoula, Lumberton, Columbia,
96 Wiggins, Purvis and Richton, were called to active service to
97 serve abroad, and successfully completed a tour of duty in Iraq
98 while restoring critical services to the Iraqi people; and

99 WHEREAS, 71 members of the 1108th Aviation Classification and
100 Repair Activity Depot, headquartered in Gulfport, Mississippi,
101 were called to active service to serve abroad, and successfully
102 completed a tour of duty in Kuwait; and

103 WHEREAS, 182 members of the 367th Maintenance Company,
104 headquartered in Philadelphia, Mississippi, were called to active
105 duty to serve abroad, deploying and providing support for the
106 newly formed Stryker Brigade Combat Team in Northern Iraq; and

107 WHEREAS, 125 members of the 114th Area Support Group,
108 headquartered in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, were called to active
109 service to serve abroad; and

110 WHEREAS, 58 members of the 298th Corps Support Battalion,
111 headquartered in Philadelphia, Mississippi, were called to active
112 service to serve abroad; and

113 WHEREAS, 24 members of the 1st Cavalry Division's Rear
114 Operations Center, headquartered in Tupelo, Mississippi, were
115 called to active service to serve abroad, becoming one of only six
116 Army National Guard units nationwide directly affiliated with an
117 active component division; and

118 WHEREAS, 57 members of the 112th Military Police Battalion,
119 headquartered in Canton, Mississippi, were called to active
120 service to serve abroad, and the battalion had previously received
121 recognition for its distinguished service in Operation Desert
122 Storm; and

123 WHEREAS, 24 members of the 114th Army Liaison Team,
124 headquartered in Greenville, Mississippi, were called to active
125 duty to serve abroad; and

126 WHEREAS, 143 members of Company G, 185th Aviation Group,
127 headquartered in Meridian, Mississippi, were called to active

128 service to serve abroad, flying the Chinook helicopter, the Army's
129 premier cargo aircraft; and

130 WHEREAS, 84 members of the 185th Aviation Group,
131 headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, were called to active
132 service to serve abroad, holding the distinction of commanding the
133 largest National Guard Aviation Task Force ever deployed overseas;
134 and

135 WHEREAS, 62 members of the Mississippi Air National Guard,
136 255th Air Control Squadron, headquartered in Gulfport,
137 Mississippi, were called to active service; and

138 WHEREAS, 500 members of the Mississippi Air National Guard,
139 172nd Airlift Wing, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, were
140 called to active service to serve abroad and successfully
141 completed their missions overseas; and

142 WHEREAS, numerous members of the 183rd Aeromedical Evacuation
143 Squadron, based in Jackson, Mississippi, were called to active
144 service and successfully completed their patient evacuation
145 missions in an exemplary manner; and

146 WHEREAS, 500 members of the Mississippi Air National Guard,
147 186th Air Refueling Wing, headquartered in Meridian, Mississippi,
148 were called to active service to serve abroad, and successfully
149 completed their missions overseas; and

150 WHEREAS, numerous members of the Mississippi Air National
151 Guard, 238th Air Support Operations Squadron and the 248th Air
152 Control Squadron, based in Meridian, Mississippi, were called to
153 active service to serve abroad, and successfully completed their
154 missions in an exemplary manner; and

155 WHEREAS, Mississippi Air National Guard Security Flights from
156 the 172nd Airlift Wing and the 186th Air Refueling Wing were
157 called to active service to serve abroad, and successfully
158 completed their overseas missions; and

159 WHEREAS, 75 soldiers made up of various units of the
160 Mississippi National Guard were called to active duty in the State

161 of Mississippi with security missions at seven airports statewide,
162 and successfully completed their missions; and

163 WHEREAS, 45 soldiers from units with the 1st Battalion, 155th
164 Infantry, headquartered in McComb, Mississippi, were called to
165 active duty in the State of Mississippi with security missions at
166 five Mississippi ports as well as the Grand Gulf Nuclear Power
167 Facility; and

168 WHEREAS, 177 soldiers, known as Task Force Falcon, made up of
169 various units of the Mississippi Army National Guard, have been
170 mobilized and are serving on active duty in the State of
171 Mississippi with security missions at Columbus Air Force Base,
172 Keesler Air Force Base and the Mississippi Air National Guard
173 Bases in Jackson and Meridian; and

174 WHEREAS, the United States Army 1st Armored Division, Old
175 Ironsides, which is composed of several Mississippi members, were
176 called to active service to serve abroad, successfully completing
177 a tour of duty in Germany, and subsequently engaging in a
178 follow-on-tour in Baghdad; and

179 WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, more than 5,000 soldiers
180 and airmen of the Mississippi National Guard have been called to
181 active service in defense of our nation's freedom, constituting
182 the largest overseas deployment of the Mississippi National Guard
183 since the Korean War; and

184 WHEREAS, dedication of the many men and women of the
185 Mississippi National Guard in providing valuable assistance to the
186 United States Military has helped instill confidence in the
187 general public that they are committed to this nation's security;
188 and

189 WHEREAS, this Legislature seeks to make Mississippi citizens
190 aware that they too can show support for our troops by sending
191 messages of encouragement and letters to our troops by going
192 online to the following websites:

193 www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html; www.operationuplink.org;

194 www.anyservicemember.org; www.operationdearabby.net;
195 www.messages@estripes.com; www.usometrodc.org/care.htm;
196 www.opsos.org; www.fisherhouse.org; www.adoptaplatoon.org;
197 www.usocares.org/home.html and
198 www.army.mil/operations/iraq/faq/html; and

199 WHEREAS, these organizations, through their websites, provide
200 the convenience and service of supplying troops with donated
201 calling cards to contact family and friends back home, encouraging
202 web-messages, letters, virtual thank you cards, emails and other
203 electronic greetings; and

204 WHEREAS, numerous Mississippi churches and other civic and
205 social groups have expressed their support for our troops by
206 sponsoring benefits and homecoming activities in addition to being
207 Good Samaritans by raising money and other items for the troops
208 and their families left behind; and

209 WHEREAS, Governor Haley Barbour, Commander in Chief, along
210 with Adjutant General Major General Harold Cross, whose leadership
211 and dedication is known throughout the military of the United
212 States, continues to guide and command units of the Mississippi
213 National Guard in mobilizations and deployments, and through state
214 emergencies including hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes and
215 security at critical sites in the State of Mississippi; and

216 WHEREAS, the Mississippi House of Representatives finds it
217 most appropriate to recognize and commend the diligence of these
218 outstanding Mississippians for the devotion to their state and
219 nation to secure and insure peace and to preserve and protect
220 freedom for all:

221 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
222 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
223 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend all Mississippi National Guard
224 personnel serving the United States both domestically and on
225 foreign soil and encourage the citizens of Mississippi to support
226 and contact the servicemen currently deployed.

227 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
228 furnished to the commanding officers of each of the aforementioned
229 organizations, the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National
230 Guard and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.