

By: Representatives Formby, Carlton,
Compretta, Davis, Dedeaux, Fillingane,
Frierson, Howell, Lott, Parker, Peranich,
Simpson, Upshaw, Wells-Smith, Mayo, Pierce

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 130

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE 890TH
2 ENGINEER BATTALION SERVING THE UNITED STATES IN OPERATION IRAQI
3 FREEDOM.

4 WHEREAS, the Armed Forces of the United States is in the
5 process of engaging in the war against terrorism both at home and
6 overseas, which includes hundreds of Mississippi National
7 Guardsmen; and

8 WHEREAS, the Mississippi National Guard, upon receiving only
9 a few days' notice in most cases, has embarked upon both missions
10 to secure and preserve peace and to protect the lives and interest
11 of all Americans, thus exhibiting the high caliber and readiness
12 of our state's troops; and

13 WHEREAS, 528 members of the 890th Engineer Battalion,
14 headquartered in Gulfport, Mississippi, with units in Picayune,
15 Pascagoula, Columbia, Lumberton, Purvis and Wiggins, were called
16 to active duty on February 7, 2003, for service in Operation Iraqi
17 Freedom; and

18 WHEREAS, upon mobilization, these soldiers trained admirably
19 at Ft. Stewart, Georgia, proving they were more than capable of
20 performing the duties required of them; and

21 WHEREAS, these soldiers were subsequently deployed to the
22 vicinity of Fallujah, Iraq, a very contentious area within the
23 Sunni Triangle region of the country; and

24 WHEREAS, the battalion was selected to support the famed 82nd
25 Airborne Division of Ft. Bragg, North Carolina; and

26 WHEREAS, one of the battalion's first missions in the country
27 was to repair Ridgeway Airfield near Fallujah and to set up the
28 division rear for the 82nd; and

29 WHEREAS, the 890th conducted several recons and bridge
30 repairs in the Rifles West region of the Sunni Triangle, as well
31 as repairing more than 41 kilometers of road; and

32 WHEREAS, the battalion also conducted several civil-military
33 campaigns, including renovations of hospitals and schools, as well
34 as improving and restoring electrical, water and sewage
35 facilities; and

36 WHEREAS, in addition to restoration and construction of
37 numerous schools, medical facilities and utilities, the 890th also
38 adopted an Iraqi school in Abinahya, an all-boys' school of first
39 through fifth graders of approximately 80 students, and with
40 assistance from the Red Cross, collected 14 boxes (500 pounds) of
41 supplies for the school; and

42 WHEREAS, the battalion constructed the first satellite
43 communications tower in Iraq for Joint Task Force - 7 in Baghdad
44 and have been recognized repeatedly for excellence during their
45 deployment; and

46 WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, more than 5,000 soldiers
47 and airmen of the Mississippi National Guard have been called to
48 active service in defense of our nation's freedom, constituting
49 the largest overseas deployment of the Mississippi National Guard
50 since the Korean War; and

51 WHEREAS, the dedication of the men of the 890th Engineer
52 Battalion, in providing valuable assistance to the United States
53 Armed Forces, has helped instill confidence in the general public
54 that they are committed to this nation's security; and

55 WHEREAS, the leadership and dedication of Lieutenant Colonel
56 Johnny M. Sellers and his staff serve as an example to all
57 military throughout the United States as they have guided and
58 commanded the units of the 890th Engineer Battalion in military

59 mobilizations and state active duties to include hurricanes,
60 tropical storms, tornados, security at seven airports
61 in the State of Mississippi and in Central America; and

62 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature finds it most
63 appropriate to recognize and commend the diligence of these
64 outstanding Mississippians for the devotion to their state and
65 nation to secure and insure peace for all:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
67 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
68 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend all personnel of the 890th
69 Engineer Battalion serving the United States so bravely in
70 Operation Iraqi Freedom.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution are
72 furnished to the commanding officers of the 890th Engineer
73 Battalion, the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard
74 and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.