

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Cuevas, Gollott, Lee To: Rules  
(47th), Harden, Williamson, Jackson (11th),  
Jordan, Thomas, Simmons, Butler, Jackson  
(32nd)

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 526

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF WORLD WAR II  
2 VETERAN HORACE B. LABAT, SR., OF PASS CHRISTIAN, MISSISSIPPI, AND  
3 EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, Horace B. Labat, Sr., a World War II Veteran and  
5 longtime resident of Pass Christian, Mississippi, departed this  
6 life on Friday, January 9, 2004; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Labat was a 1941 graduate of Randolph High  
8 School and was a member of the Randolph High School football team;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Labat was an active member of the Mexican Gulf  
11 Lodge #64, having volunteered for service in the U.S. Army during  
12 World War II, serving from 1941 to 1946 as Staff Sergeant in the  
13 famed 92nd Infantry Division known as the "Buffalo Soldiers". For  
14 decades, these African-American Regulars were the most effective  
15 troops on the western frontier. The black regiments, which came  
16 into being in 1866, quickly won the respect of their opponents.  
17 In 1867, fewer than 70 of the raw recruits repulsed an estimated  
18 900 warriors and Mexican bandits. During their years on the  
19 frontier, they had numerous pitched battles against Lipans,  
20 Kickapoos, Kiowas, Comanches and their most determined foe, the  
21 Apaches, possibly the most skillful enemy in frontier history; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Labat saw active combat in both the European and  
23 Pacific theaters of World War II battles including, Rome, Anzio,  
24 the Northern Appennines and the Po Valley; his military medals and  
25 citations included, Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action  
26 while fighting in Italy, the Asian Theater of Operations Medal,  
27 the East African Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the Army

28 Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal; Mr. Labat's  
29 Bronze Star Citation reads in part: "Staff Sergeant Labat was in  
30 command of a squad holding one of three advance isolated strong  
31 points which received a tremendous concentration of hostile fire  
32 from all areas. In the heat of the situation Staff Sergeant Labat  
33 calmly withheld his squad's fire until the enemy was within  
34 point-blank range. Then he ordered such accurate counterfire that  
35 the entire enemy attack was repulsed." This brilliant display of  
36 superior personal leadership inspired all members of his  
37 organization and is a worthy example of a soldier's gallant  
38 achievement; and

39 WHEREAS, After returning home from the war, Mr. Labat worked  
40 as a master carpenter and assisted in the restoration of many of  
41 the historic homes in Pass Christian and in the French Quarter of  
42 New Orleans; he was a successful businessman and civic leader; and

43 WHEREAS, Mr. Labat leaves to mourn his passing: three  
44 daughters, Wanda J. Labat, Sandra Dell Labat and Patricia I.  
45 Labat; one son, Horace B. Labat, Jr.; four grandchildren, Adrena  
46 Smiley Williams; Lemuel Smiley, Horace Smiley, Austin Labat; one  
47 great-grandson, Antoine Williams; one brother-in-law, Lionel  
48 Landry (Carmen); one niece, Lynette Labat Henderson; one nephew,  
49 Ronald Labat; a longtime companion, Willie Mae Johnson; and a host  
50 of cousins and other relatives and close friends:

51 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
52 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
53 we do hereby commend the life of World War II Veteran Horace B.  
54 Labat, Sr., of Pass Christian, Mississippi, and express to his  
55 surviving family the sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
57 the surviving family of Mr. Labat and be made available to the  
58 Mississippi Sun Herald and to members of the Capitol Press Corps.