

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

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

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

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: the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in  
26 action while fighting in Italy, the Asian Theater of Operations  
27 Medal, the East African Middle East Theater of Operations Medal,

28 the Army Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal;  
29 Mr. Labat's Bronze Star Citation reads in part: "Staff Sergeant  
30 Labat was in command of a squad holding one of three advance  
31 isolated strong points which received a tremendous concentration  
32 of hostile fire from all areas. In the heat of the situation  
33 Staff Sergeant Labat calmly withheld his squad's fire until the  
34 enemy was within point-blank range. Then he ordered such accurate  
35 countfire that the entire enemy attack was repulsed." This  
36 brilliant display of superior personal leadership inspired all  
37 members of his organization and is a worthy example of a soldiers  
38 gallant 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, That we do hereby commend the life of World War II  
53 Veteran Horace B. Labat, Sr., of Pass Christian, Mississippi, and  
54 express to his surviving family the sympathy of the Senate on his  
55 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.