

By: Senator(s) Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE BRAVERY OF MR. THOMAS HAMILL
2 WHILE A CIVILIAN PRISONER OF WAR AND DECLARING OUR GREAT PRIDE
3 UPON HIS ESCAPE.

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

8 WHEREAS, Thomas Hamill of Macon, Mississippi, who was
9 abducted by a group of Islamic insurgents on April 9, 2004, when
10 his supply convoy came under attack, was found safe by the 2nd
11 Battalion, 108th Infantry of the New York National Guard, after
12 having escaped his captors on May 2, 2004; and

13 WHEREAS, a civilian contractor for Halliburton Company
14 subsidiary KBR who had undertaken the job to save his family
15 business, Mr. Hamill's release was conditioned by his captors upon
16 the withdrawal of United States Forces from Fallujah; and

17 WHEREAS, after 23 days of captivity, Mr. Hamill, remaining
18 steadfast in his faith that he would once again see his family,
19 pried open the doors of a locked building and ran a half mile to
20 catch up with a passing military convoy; and

21 WHEREAS, during the time of his captivity, Mr. Hamill's
22 bravery, resolve, resilience and intrepid spirit allowed him to
23 maintain his hope and determination for freedom and provided him
24 the strength for his daring escape; and

25 WHEREAS, suffering a gunshot wound to his left arm, Mr.
26 Hamill, rather than being consumed by the dangers of capture and
27 his own safety, remained more concerned about the health and

28 well-being of his family: wife, Kellie; children, Thomas and
29 Tori; parents, Leo and Phylis Hamill; and grandmother, Vera
30 Hamill; and

31 WHEREAS, "Tommy Hamill is free today because of his own wits
32 and the prayers of hundreds of thousands of his fellow Americans,"
33 Congressman Roger Wicker said. "This happy ending is a credit to
34 his determination. Simply put, a Mississippi country boy can
35 survive"; and

36 WHEREAS, the Legislature wishes to recognize and commend the
37 bravery exhibited by Mr. Hamill, whose experience as a hostage
38 greatly affected the emotions and evoked sympathy and spiritual
39 unity of the many citizens of Macon and the entire State of
40 Mississippi:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
42 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the bravery of Mr. Thomas
43 Hamill while a civilian prisoner of war and declare our great
44 pride upon his safe and daring escape, and we pray for the quick
45 and successful conclusion of the important mission of our military
46 and civilian personnel in Iraq and for their safe return home.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
48 the family of Mr. Thomas Hamill and be made available to the
49 members of the Capitol Press Corps.