

By: Senator(s) Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68

1 A RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND COMMENDING
2 THE LIFE OF SERGEANT JOSHUA L. LADD OF PHILADELPHIA, MISSISSIPPI,
3 THE 10TH MISSISSIPPI COMBAT CASUALTY IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

4 WHEREAS, on Saturday, May 1, 2004, Sergeant Joshua L. Ladd,
5 20, of the 367th Maintenance Company, based out of Philadelphia,
6 was killed near Mosul, Iraq, when hostile forces ambushed his
7 convoy and a rocket-propelled grenade struck his vehicle; and

8 WHEREAS, a Neshoba County native, he was the son of Randy and
9 Deborah Ladd of the Fork Community, a community-wide memorial
10 service for Ladd was held Thursday, May 6, 2004, at the First
11 Baptist Church of Philadelphia; and

12 WHEREAS, military officials said complete details of the
13 incident were unavailable; and

14 WHEREAS, reports from Iraq said that two other soldiers from
15 the 367th were in the same vehicle with Ladd and that one suffered
16 a minor foot injury as a result of kicking out the front glass of
17 the vehicle. By the time they got out, Sgt. Ladd was already
18 dead; and

19 WHEREAS, a memorial service for Ladd was held in Mosul, and
20 another memorial service was held at Fort Lewis, Washington, where
21 his unit trained before being deployed to Iraq; and

22 WHEREAS, Tuesday, May 4, the flags at City Hall and the
23 county courthouse were at half staff and the Mayor and Board of
24 Aldermen along with the Board of Supervisors prepared resolutions
25 honoring Ladd. Funeral arrangements were incomplete with
26 officials saying it could be next week before his body is returned

27 home for burial with full military honors. McClain-Hays Funeral
28 Home will handle the services; and

29 WHEREAS, Ladd is remembered most for his vibrant smile and
30 upbeat personality. An energetic but quiet youth, Ladd signed up
31 for the Mississippi National Guard at the age of 17 while still in
32 high school, and last year transferred from the 298th Corps
33 Support Battalion after he heard the 367th was leaving for Iraq.
34 Family members said he wanted to be the first to leave and
35 remembered him smiling as he boarded the bus for deployment last
36 November amid a torrent of tears; and

37 WHEREAS, Ladd graduated from Neshoba Central High School in
38 2001 and was remembered by classmates and friends as a teenager
39 who would do anything to make people laugh. A trumpet player in
40 the NCHS band, Ladd loved computers and playing computer games
41 with friends; and

42 WHEREAS, Ladd is remembered for doing what "he was meant to
43 do" and that was to serve his country; friends and family members
44 said at an early age Ladd talked about being a pilot or joining
45 the military. His interest in the military led to Ladd's early
46 entrance into the National Guard and a year as a residence advisor
47 at Chamberlain-Hunt Academy. He had enrolled at East Central
48 Community College last fall, but only had time to move into a dorm
49 with some of his high school friends and attended a few classes
50 before being activated with the 367th; and

51 WHEREAS, at Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, school officials
52 announced Ladd's death to students, many of which remember him as
53 a resident advisor, and stated that Josh set a Christian example
54 in everything he did and he paid a huge sacrifice. When others
55 complained about being in Iraq, he never said a word. He often
56 stated that he wouldn't mind serving another year; and

57 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict
58 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride
59 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great

60 American and Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization
61 as we know it today:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby remember the gallant service and
64 commend the life of Sergeant Joshua L. Ladd of the 367th
65 Maintenance Company from Philadelphia, Mississippi, who was killed
66 in action in Iraq on Saturday, May 1, 2004, and extend the
67 thoughts and prayers of the Senate to his family and our sorrow on
68 his passing.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
70 the surviving family of Sgt. Joshua Ladd and be forwarded to the
71 Commander in Chief of the United States Armed Forces, President
72 George W. Bush, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.