

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 84

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION POSTHUMOUSLY COMMENDING THE LIFE AND  
2 PERSONAL SACRIFICE OF ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JAMES DIAMOND.

3 WHEREAS, fallen World War II hero and posthumous Medal of  
4 Honor recipient, Army Private First Class James Diamond will soon  
5 receive a headstone befitting a hero; and

6 WHEREAS, Private James Diamond gave the ultimate sacrifice of  
7 life at the age of 20 during a battle in Mindanao, Philippines,  
8 while leading a patrol to evacuate casualties from his battalion;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Private Diamond ran through a hail of Japanese fire  
11 to secure an abandoned machine gun, managing to draw enough fire  
12 upon himself that the remaining members of the patrol reached  
13 safety; and

14 WHEREAS, in an effort spearheaded by Lieutenant Colonel "Doc"  
15 Blanchard, an Air Force veteran who served in World War II, the  
16 financial contributions of the Gulfport City Council and Don  
17 Reynolds, who is constructing the headstone, Private Diamond will  
18 be honored with an unveiling of this monument on April 23, a day  
19 following the anniversary of his 80th birthday; and

20 WHEREAS, in honor of Private Diamond, who was posthumously  
21 awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic action on  
22 May 14, 1945, Congressman Gene Taylor and Senator Trent Lott are  
23 expected to be present for the April 23rd unveiling; and

24 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
25 and commend the supreme sacrifice of life by our nation's military  
26 veterans and active soldiers, as exemplified by the selfless  
27 giving of life by Private Diamond:

28           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
29 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
30 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life and personal sacrifice  
31 of Army Private First Class James Diamond and recognize the  
32 posthumous recognition of his life by the City of Gulfport.

33           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
34 furnished to the Gulfport City Council, Lieutenant Colonel  
35 Blanchard and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.