

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Hewes

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 533

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF SEABEE CHIEF JOEL BALDWIN OF GULFPORT,
3 MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS A COMBAT CASUALTY IN IRAQ ON DECEMBER 21,
4 2004.

5 WHEREAS, carried through a corridor of his shipmates, Seabee
6 Chief Joel Baldwin, who died in Mosul, Iraq, on December 21, 2004,
7 came home to his family in Gulfport, Mississippi, on Tuesday,
8 December 28, 2004; and

9 WHEREAS, Chief Baldwin, a 37-year-old builder chief, was
10 likely on a survey trip in Mosul when he was killed by a suicide
11 bomber who attacked United States troops in a mess tent on
12 December 21, 2004. He was the second Seabee from Gulfport to die
13 in Iraq; and

14 WHEREAS, at the ceremony Seabees stood silently and somberly
15 honoring Baldwin, who served in Iraq with a detachment of Naval
16 Mobile Construction Battalion 7. The battalion's main body is
17 deployed to Guam. Since the war began, Seabees have worked to
18 improve living conditions for United States troops and to help
19 rebuild the war-torn country; and

20 WHEREAS, Joel Egan Baldwin of Gulfport, Mississippi, was born
21 on October 16, 1967, in Coco Solo, Canal Zone, Republic of Panama,
22 to Spike and Wendy Baldwin. In 1987 he graduated from Balboa High
23 School, and joined the United States Navy in 1988. In August of
24 1989 he married his high school sweetheart, Claudia Veronica
25 Jordan. After 2-1/2 years of duty in Fort Davis, Panama, they
26 moved to the Gulf Coast. After 5-1/2 years at the Naval
27 Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Joel was selected for
28 duty with the Naval Support Unit, State Department, and was

29 stationed at the United States Embassy in Mexico City for two
30 years; and

31 WHEREAS, on December 9, 1995, he and Claudia welcomed their
32 daughter, Cali Ravai. His love for the Gulf Coast birthplace of
33 his daughter brought him back to continue serving his country and
34 the community while raising Cali; and

35 WHEREAS, Joe was a loving, loyal, honorable, valiant, giving,
36 hardworking person who positively impacted every person he met.
37 All who knew him would agree that their lives were permanently
38 enriched by him; and

39 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Claudia; daughter, Cali;
40 sister, Kelly Baldwin Morris; brother, Andrew Baldwin; mother,
41 Wendy Ruth Kurzdorfer Baldwin; and father, William (Spike)
42 Baldwin. Also mourning his loss are father-in-law, Johnny Jordan;
43 mother-in-law, Yolanda Aizpurua Martini Jordan; sisters-in-law,
44 Jessica Bishop and Cristina Conroy; and brothers-in-law, Michael
45 Jordan and Craig Morris. Joel had seven beautiful nephews and one
46 niece who adored him and he cherished them with all his heart. He
47 is predeceased by paternal grandparents, William Wescott Baldwin,
48 Sr., and Electra Vunck Baldwin, and maternal grandparents, Perce
49 Elmer Kurzdorfer and Patricia Amy Thompson Kurzdorfer and a
50 precious baby brother, Amado Baldwin; and

51 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict
52 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride
53 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great
54 American and Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization
55 as we know it today:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
59 Seabee Chief Joel Baldwin of Gulfport, Mississippi, who was killed
60 in action in Iraq on December 21, 2004, and extend the thoughts

61 and prayers of the Legislature to his family and our sorrow on his
62 passing.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
64 the surviving family of Chief Baldwin and be made available to *The*
65 *Sun Herald* and to members of the Capitol Press Corps.