

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Dawkins, Gollott,  
Cuevas, Lee (47th), Moffatt, Robertson

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 547

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF COLONEL  
2 LAWRENCE E. ROBERTS, USAF, RETIRED, OF BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, A  
3 DECORATED VETERAN AND MEMBER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS TUSKEGEE AIRMEN,  
4 AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Colonel Lawrence E. Roberts, United States Air Force  
6 (USAF), Retired, died Tuesday, October 12, 2004, in Biloxi,  
7 Mississippi, at 81 years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts had been a resident of the  
9 Mississippi Gulf Coast for 35 years, living in Pascagoula and  
10 Biloxi; and

11 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts attended Howard University, received  
12 his Bachelor of Science Degree from Morningside College, and  
13 received his Master's Degree from Tuskegee Institute; and

14 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts entered the United States Army Air  
15 Corps as a Private and retired from the United States Air Force as  
16 a Colonel. He was a graduate of the 44K Class of the prestigious  
17 Tuskegee Airmen. His first assignment was the training program at  
18 Tuskegee Army Air Field where he graduated as First Lieutenant and  
19 was assigned to the 477th Medium Bombardment Group, and later the  
20 332nd Fighter Wing; and

21 WHEREAS, among the 19 service medals and awards received  
22 during his service career are the Legion of Merit with two Oak  
23 Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the United  
24 States Force Commendation Medal, the Distinguished Service Order  
25 and Air Service Medal, received from the Republic of Vietnam. He  
26 served in numerous flying, technical and command assignments in  
27 the continental United States and Japan, Canada, Turkey and  
28 Vietnam. This service included duty as a Jet Fighter Pilot in the

29 Air Defense Command and as a Flight Instructor at the fighter  
30 school at Williams Air Force Base, Ground Electronics Officer in  
31 Japan and Canada, Chief of Ground Communication-Electronics and  
32 Meteorological Maintenance at an Air Division Headquarters,  
33 Department Chief for Ground Electronics and Officer Training at  
34 Keesler Air Force Base, Commander of a NATO communications  
35 organization and Chief Communications-Electronics and Logistics  
36 Advisor to the Vietnamese Air Force Headquarters, and Commander of  
37 the Maintenance and Supply Group at Keesler Air Force Base. After  
38 retirement from the United States Air Force, he worked for Global  
39 Associates at the National Space Technology Laboratories; and

40 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts was extremely involved both in his  
41 church and in his community; he was a former member and vice  
42 moderator of the General Assembly Council, Presbyterian Church  
43 (USA); former member and Chairman of Council of the Presbytery of  
44 Mississippi; and an Elder, First Presbyterian Church (USA), Bay  
45 St. Louis, Mississippi. Colonel Roberts' community activities  
46 include being a Member of the Board of Trustees, Leadership Gulf  
47 Coast; former member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for  
48 Pass Christian School District; former member and Chairman of the  
49 Executive Board of the Mississippi School Boards Association;  
50 former member and Chairman of the Southern Region of the School  
51 Boards Association; and Director of the Genesis Foundation; and

52 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts was preceded in death by his parents  
53 and a brother. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mrs.  
54 Lucimarian Tolliver Roberts of Biloxi, Mississippi; three  
55 daughters: Dorothy Roberts McEwen of Long Beach, Mississippi,  
56 Sally-Ann Roberts Craft of New Orleans, Louisiana, and Robin R.  
57 Roberts of New York, New York (ESPN Commentator); one son,  
58 Lawrence E. Roberts II and wife Cynthia of Houston, Texas; eight  
59 grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; and numerous nieces,  
60 nephews and friends; and

61           WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this  
62 decorated veteran who served his country and state in many ways,  
63 whose influence will continue his legacy of strength,  
64 responsibility, integrity and faith for generations, and who was  
65 an American hero and man of God:

66           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
67 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
68 we do hereby commend and celebrate the life of Colonel Lawrence E.  
69 Roberts, USAF, Retired, of Biloxi, Mississippi, a decorated  
70 veteran, member of the prestigious Tuskegee Airmen and true  
71 American hero, and express to his surviving family the sympathy of  
72 the Legislature on his passing.

73           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
74 the surviving family of Colonel Roberts, be forwarded to the  
75 Commander of Keesler Air Force Base, and be made available to the  
76 Capitol Press Corps.