

By: Senator(s) Carmichael, Burton, Browning, Clarke, Dawkins, Dearing, Frazier, Gollott, Hewes, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (15th), Jackson (11th), King, Kirby, Lee (35th), Little, Ross, Thames, White, Wilemon To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 563

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST ROBERT ALLEN MCNAIL OF MERIDIAN,
3 MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS A COMBAT CASUALTY IN IRAQ ON FEBRUARY 11,
4 2005, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Specialist Robert Allen McNail, 30, of Meridian,
6 Mississippi, was killed on Friday, February 11, 2005, in a vehicle
7 accident on combat duty in Iraq; and

8 WHEREAS, carried by a military honor guard, he came home to
9 his family on Saturday, February 19, 2005, as flags at the
10 Meridian Naval Air Station flew at half-staff in his honor; and

11 WHEREAS, Specialist McNail was a member of Company B, 150th
12 Combat Engineer Battalion out of Quitman, Mississippi, which is
13 attached to the 155th Brigade Combat Team, which includes 3,500
14 soldiers from Mississippi and others from Vermont and Arkansas.
15 He is the second member of the unit to die in Iraq. The 155th
16 Brigade is comprised of soldiers from 49 communities in
17 Mississippi; and

18 WHEREAS, he is the 22nd soldier or sailor with Mississippi
19 ties to die in the war in Iraq; and

20 WHEREAS, Specialist McNail, a native of Meridian,
21 Mississippi, is the sixth Mississippi National Guard soldier to
22 give his life in Iraq and the second to die this year. He was
23 engaged to be married and leaves behind a 3-year-old son; and

24 WHEREAS, Robert was an outgoing young man who was studying to
25 be a nurse at Meridian Community College and worked in a civilian
26 role at the Naval Air Station before being deployed; his brigade
27 underwent training at Camp Shelby and left for the Middle East in
28 January 2005; and

29 WHEREAS, Robert's last communication to his family spoke of
30 the troops' first mortar attack and listed the 22 members of his
31 unit in hopes that a church would adopt the unit, unselfishly
32 putting other members ahead of himself; and

33 WHEREAS, his family has received an outpouring of grief and
34 support from across the state, demonstrating the community
35 acknowledgment of the sacrifice made by the Mississippi National
36 Guard; and

37 WHEREAS, he is survived by his son, Edward Allen McNail of
38 Quitman, Mississippi; parents, Marvin and Linda McNail of
39 Meridian; a brother, Brian McNail and his wife, Debra, of Fort
40 Meade, Maryland; his fiancée, Denise Potts, and her children,
41 Daniel and Sheridan of Meridian; his grandfathers, Walter Farris
42 Wright, and his wife, Claudie, of Yazoo City, and Edward McNail,
43 and his wife, Elsie, of Salem, Missouri; nieces and nephews, David
44 McNail, Calyn McNail and Carmel McNail, all of Fort Meade,
45 Maryland; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Honorary
46 pallbearers will be the 21 members of his platoon and Sergeant
47 Howse stationed in Iraq; and

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

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
54 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
55 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
56 Specialist Robert Allen McNail of Meridian, Mississippi, who was
57 killed in action in Iraq on Friday, February 11, 2005, and extend
58 the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to his family and our
59 sorrow on his passing.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
61 the surviving family of Specialist McNail and be made available to
62 *The Meridian Star* and to members of the Capitol Press Corps.