

By: Senator(s) Pickering, Browning, Butler,
Carmichael, Dawkins, Dearing, Frazier,
Gollott, Hewes, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), King, Kirby,
Lee (35th), Little, Mettetal, Moffatt, Ross,
Thames, White, Wilemon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 571

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST JOSEPH ANDREW "DREW" RAHAIM OF
3 LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS A COMBAT CASUALTY IN IRAQ ON FEBRUARY
4 16, 2005, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Specialist Joseph Andrew "Drew" Rahaim, 22, of
6 Laurel, Mississippi, was killed on Wednesday, February 16, 2005,
7 in a vehicle accident while on combat duty in Iraq; and

8 WHEREAS, carried by a military honor guard, he came home to
9 his community and family, as the American flag in downtown Laurel
10 City Hall was lowered to half-mast in honor of the city's first
11 fallen as a result of the Iraq War; and

12 WHEREAS, Specialist Rahaim was a member of Detachment 1,
13 Company A, out of Mendenhall, Mississippi, which is attached to
14 the 155th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which includes 3,500
15 soldiers from Mississippi and others from Vermont and Arkansas.
16 He was one of two Mississippi Army National Guard soldiers to die
17 in the same accident; Drew, along with Sergeant Timothy Osbey of
18 Magnolia, Mississippi, were the third and fourth members of the
19 unit to die in Iraq; and

20 WHEREAS, Drew is the 23rd soldier or sailor with Mississippi
21 ties to die in the war in Iraq; and

22 WHEREAS, Specialist Rahaim is the seventh Mississippi
23 National Guard soldier to give his life in Iraq; and

24 WHEREAS, during his funeral, Specialist Rahaim was awarded
25 the Bronze Star and the Mississippi Medal of Valor posthumously by
26 Major General Harold Cross, Adjutant of Mississippi; and

27 WHEREAS, Drew's family and friends remember him as a witty,
28 charming young man and a tough, dedicated soldier who loved the

29 outdoors and military life; Drew loved his country and he wanted
30 to serve; and

31 WHEREAS, he was originally from Jackson, Mississippi, and
32 moved to Laurel to enroll at Jones County Junior College in the
33 forestry program after he had already joined the military; his
34 brigade underwent training at Camp Shelby and left for the Middle
35 East in January 2005; and

36 WHEREAS, Specialist Rahaim comes from a long line of military
37 people. His grandfather and three great-uncles served with
38 American forces during World War II; and

39 WHEREAS, his family has received an outpouring of grief and
40 support from across the state, demonstrating the community's
41 acknowledgment of the sacrifice made by the Mississippi National
42 Guard; and

43 WHEREAS, he is survived by his mother, Cheryl Walters Rahaim
44 of Snellville, Georgia; his father, Donald M. Rahaim of Knoxville,
45 Tennessee; his sister, Erin Daniele Rahaim of Hattiesburg,
46 Mississippi; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. D.E. Walters of
47 Snellville, Georgia; aunts and uncles, Mr. and Mrs. Jim McCammon,
48 Tim and Rose Yancy of Jackson, and Ed and Susan Ritchey of Laurel,
49 Mississippi; great-aunt Mollie Rahaim Kennedy of Laurel; great-
50 uncles, Colonel Mazick Rahaim (retired) of Columbus, Georgia, and
51 Ernest Rahaim of Laurel; and a host of cousins. He was preceded
52 in death by his grandparents, Milheim and Gladys Rahaim of Laurel;
53 and

54 WHEREAS, to a country, a fallen soldier means a national
55 loss; to a community, a fallen soldier means a true hero; to a
56 parent, a fallen soldier means a son who won't be coming home.
57 Mississippians understand the costs of conflict because we have
58 paid them in the past, and it is with great pride and humility
59 that we recognize the heroic action of this great American and
60 Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization as we know it
61 today:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
64 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
65 Specialist Joseph Andrew "Drew" Rahaim of Laurel, Mississippi, who
66 was killed in action in Iraq on Wednesday, February 16, 2005, and
67 extend the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to his family
68 and our sorrow on his passing.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
70 the surviving family of Specialist Rahaim and be made available to
71 members of the Capitol Press Corps.