

By: Representative Stringer

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING ROY THIGPEN, JR., FOR 21
2 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND
3 RECOGNIZING HIS PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

4 WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Roy Thigpen, Jr., born December
5 23, 1966, in Mound Bayou, Mississippi, to Roy Thigpen, Sr., and
6 Julia Williams Thigpen, and spent his childhood in Canton,
7 Mississippi, obtaining his education at Holy Child Jesus and
8 graduating from Canton High School in May of 1984; and

9 WHEREAS, Roy Thigpen, Jr., entered the United States Army in
10 August of 1984, wherein he observed, analyzed, and provided
11 feedback to Army National Guard Air Defense Artillery (ADA) units
12 on the application of doctrinal tactics, techniques, and
13 procedures; trained and evaluated Air Defense Artillery units
14 throughout the states of North Dakota, Illinois, and Minnesota
15 during Inactive Duty Training and Annual Training (AT); and
16 advised and trained 64 senior unit leaders and 500 soldiers on
17 individual and platoon collective tasks that support the unit's
18 wartime mission; and

19 WHEREAS, he also served as an instructor on the Bradley
20 Stinger Fighting Vehicle, providing technical guidance and
21 instruction to enlisted, officers and warrant officers, conducting
22 very important person briefings, preparing lesson plans and
23 audio-visual products for classroom instruction, administering
24 written and practical exams and being responsible for the upkeep
25 and maintenance of all training aids and associated equipment in
26 value of over Two Million Dollars; and

27 WHEREAS, he was a master gunner for a M2A2 Bradley equipped
28 Air Defense Battery in an Armored Division, was responsible for
29 crew training of BSFV (Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle) crews,
30 prepared and orchestrated the operation and training in the UCOFT
31 simulator, was responsible for ensuring the commander was promptly
32 briefed on crew proficiency and advised the commander on all
33 matters concerning BSFV training maintenance and gunnery; and

34 WHEREAS, he served as the commander's gunnery technical
35 advisor in a Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle/avenger air defense
36 artillery battalion organic to the 1st Armored Division;
37 responsible for the planning, development, coordination,
38 execution, evaluation of all Bradley gunnery training;
39 coordinating live fire exercises for small arms, Bradley and
40 Avenger weapon system; managing training devices for Bradley
41 gunnery training; and forecasting ammunition for Bradley live fire
42 exercises; and

43 WHEREAS, during his time in 1-4 ADA, SFC Thigpen found
44 himself in numerous challenging situations, but his dedication to
45 duty and his unsurpassed professionalism were especially evident
46 during deployment to Bosnia with IFOR, whether performing
47 enumerable mounted patrols, convoy escort duty, or ground security
48 missions, SFC Thigpen applied hard work, discipline, and drive to
49 every task assigned to him and his subordinates; and

50 WHEREAS, SFC Thigpen's excellence in Bradley Gunnery was
51 recognized at the Battalion level with his selection as the
52 Battalion Master Gunner in April 1996, and in the three and
53 one-half years of serving in this capacity, 1-4 ADA qualified at
54 the top in all of 1st Armored Division on Bradley Table VIII for
55 three consecutive gunneries; and

56 WHEREAS, from July 1998 to September 1998, SFC Thigpen served
57 as Operations Sergeant in the Eagle Base Defense Center during
58 Operation Joint Guard and Operation Joint Forge; and

59 WHEREAS, SFC Thigpen successfully held the position of Senior
60 Instructor for Third Platoon as well as being the Academy's EO
61 Representative, a capacity in which he facilitated the creation of
62 the Academy's Dining In, In processing and Graduation SOP,
63 implemented revised standards in several key functional areas that
64 enabled the Academy to function flawlessly and unselfishly
65 provided the incoming Chief Instructor of PLDC with the
66 institutional information enabling a seamless transition for the
67 Academy and the new Chief Instructor of PLDC; and

68 WHEREAS, SFC Thigpen received numerous awards including
69 MSM 2 Oak Leaf Cluster, ARCOM 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, AAM 1/Silver Oak
70 Leaf Cluster and 3 Oak Leaf Cluster; and

71 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
72 and commend such outstanding Mississippians as SFC Roy Thigpen,
73 Jr.:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
75 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
76 THEREIN, That we do hereby congratulate SFC Roy Thigpen, Jr., on
77 his retirement, commend him for the 21 years of service that he
78 has rendered to our state and nation and extend to him and his
79 family best wishes for continued success in all of his future
80 endeavors.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
82 furnished to Sergeant First Class Roy Thigpen, Jr., and to the
83 members of the Capitol Press Corps.