

By: Senator(s) Brown, Hyde-
Smith, Browning, Carmichael

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 502

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD STAFF
3 SERGEANT TOMMY S. LITTLE OF ALICEVILLE, ALABAMA, AND EXPRESSING
4 THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi National Guardsman Staff Sergeant Tommy
6 S. Little, 45, of Aliceville, Alabama, died on Monday, April 29,
7 2005, from injuries he suffered in an April 19 attack during a
8 roadside bombing that wounded four others; and

9 WHEREAS, an improvised explosive device fatally wounded
10 Sergeant Little while he was on patrol about 20 miles south of
11 Baghdad, and he later died at a Texas military hospital; and

12 WHEREAS, Sergeant Little was a member of the Mississippi
13 National Guard 155th Armored Brigade based in Columbus,
14 Mississippi, which was activated in August 2004; and

15 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Little's funeral on Friday, May 6,
16 2005, in which he was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, the
17 Purple Heart and the Mississippi Medal of Valor by Mississippi
18 National Guard Adjutant Major General Harold Cross, was attended
19 by more than 400 mourners in his West Alabama community of 2,500;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Major General Cross, who came to know Sergeant
22 Little as they trained before going to Iraq, said at his funeral
23 that it was one year ago this week that his unit was alerted it
24 was being called up, an order he sent to his guard members on the
25 Saturday before Mother's Day; and

26 WHEREAS, Cross said Little was "a rare breed of man" who went
27 to Iraq to "defend our country and to defend our freedoms and

28 above all to defend those of us in this room so that we can
29 continue to enjoy the freedoms that we enjoy today"; and

30 WHEREAS, after services at the Aliceville National Guard
31 Armory, Little was buried at Cedar Grove Baptist Church Cemetery
32 in the Old Memphis community near the Mississippi line; and

33 WHEREAS, Sergeant Little also worked at the Aliceville Cotton
34 Mill for 20 years before it closed. A veteran of Desert Storm
35 assignments in Kuwait and Iraq in 1991, he was a member of the
36 second battalion of the 114th Field Artillery that is based in
37 Columbus, Mississippi; and

38 WHEREAS, since military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq
39 began, 27 soldiers with ties to Mississippi have died. At least
40 27 military personnel who were raised or based in Alabama have
41 died while serving in Iraq; and

42 WHEREAS, to a country, a fallen soldier means a national
43 loss; to a community, a fallen soldier means a true hero; to a
44 parent, a fallen soldier means a son who won't be coming home.
45 Mississippians understand the costs of conflict because we have
46 paid them in the past, and it is with great pride and humility
47 that we recognize the heroic action of this great American and
48 Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization as we know it
49 today:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
52 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
53 Mississippi Army National Guard Staff Sergeant Tommy S. Little of
54 Aliceville, Alabama, who died on Monday, April 29, 2005, from
55 injuries he suffered in combat in Iraq on April 19, 2005, and
56 extend the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to his family
57 and our sorrow on his passing.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
59 the surviving family of Sergeant Little and be made available to
60 members of the Capitol Press Corps.