

By: Senator(s) Clarke, Chaney, Carmichael, King To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 505

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF STAFF SERGEANT JOHN EDWARD MCGEE, SR., OF
3 CARY, MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS A COMBAT CASUALTY IN IRAQ ON MAY 2,
4 2005, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Alabama National Guardsman Staff Sergeant John
6 Edward McGee, Sr., 36, of Columbus, Georgia, a native of Cary,
7 Mississippi, was killed on Monday, May 2, 2005, when an improvised
8 explosive device detonated near his vehicle while on combat duty
9 in Addiwaniyah, Iraq. He was one of 23 soldiers who died in the
10 tanker truck explosion; and

11 WHEREAS, carried by a military honor guard, he came home to
12 his native community and family, and was buried with full military
13 honors on Saturday, May 14, 2005, at the Cary Community Cemetery.
14 Second District U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson joined a
15 delegation of military officials, family members and pastors who
16 celebrated Sergeant McGee's life during a service, at South Delta
17 High School Auditorium; and

18 WHEREAS, posthumously, Sergeant McGee was awarded the Bronze
19 Star, Purple Heart and Alabama Meritorious Service Medal during
20 the service by Alabama National Guard Adjutant General Mark Bowen;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, assigned to the Army National Guard's 2101st
23 Transportation Company in Camden, Alabama, McGee had lived in
24 Columbus, Georgia, for a brief time before the 2101st was
25 mobilized last summer. He was working at a home health agency,
26 said his mother, Rebecca McGee, and had considered returning to
27 school; but before he did, his Army unit was sent to Iraq.

28 Sergeant McGee had completed a program to become a lieutenant, but
29 had not yet been commissioned; and

30 WHEREAS, Rebecca McGee said her son enlisted in the Army when
31 he was 17 years old, a 1986 graduate of Henry Weather High School
32 in Rolling Fork. "We live in an area where there are no jobs for
33 young men and John wanted to get a job to help his family." He
34 had served eight years on active duty before joining the Alabama
35 National Guard in 1996; and

36 WHEREAS, since military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq
37 began, 27 soldiers with ties to Mississippi have died. The Army
38 said McGee was the fourth Alabama National Guardsman to be killed
39 in action in Iraq. At least 26 military personnel who were raised
40 or based in Alabama have died while serving in Iraq; and

41 WHEREAS, "Staff Sergeant McGee was a highly respected soldier
42 who always gave his best regardless of the circumstances," said
43 Major General Mark Bowen, Adjutant General of the Alabama National
44 Guard. "This is a great loss and our thoughts and prayers go out
45 to the McGee family and to the 2101st"; and

46 WHEREAS, John had been at home on leave just a week prior to
47 his death; and

48 WHEREAS, in addition to his mother, survivors include two
49 sons, Devontac Caldwell, Hollandale, Mississippi, and John Edward
50 McGee, Jr., Columbus, Georgia; one daughter, Jordan McGee,
51 Columbus, Georgia; four brothers, Howard McGee of Cary,
52 Mississippi, Laurence McGee of Baltimore, Maryland, Michael McGee
53 Norfolk, Virginia, and Kenneth McGee, Columbus, Georgia; four
54 sisters, Sandra Lockett, Atlanta, Georgia, Shelia Barfield, Sharon
55 Barnes and Beverly Thomas, all of Vicksburg, Mississippi; and his
56 grandmother, Ethel Crayton, Mayersville, Mississippi. Devout in
57 his faith, he was a member of Clark Chapel United Methodist Church
58 in Cary; and

59 WHEREAS, to a country, a fallen soldier means a national
60 loss; to a community, a fallen soldier means a true hero; to a

61 parent, a fallen soldier means a son who won't be coming home.
62 Mississippians understand the costs of conflict because we have
63 paid them in the past, and it is with great pride and humility
64 that we recognize the heroic action of this great American and
65 Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization as we know it
66 today:

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
68 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
69 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
70 Staff Sergeant John Edward McGee, Sr., of Cary, Mississippi, who
71 was killed in action in Iraq on Monday, May 2, 2005, and extend
72 the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to his family and our
73 sorrow on his passing.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
75 the surviving family of Sergeant McGee and be made available to
76 members of the Capitol Press Corps.