

By: Senator(s) Mettetal, To: Rules
Brown, Browning, Burton,
Butler, Carmichael, Chaney,
Clarke, Davis, Dearing,
Flowers, Frazier, Gollott,
Gordon, Harden, Hewes,
Jackson (15th), Jackson
(11th), Jordan, King,
Kirby, Lee (35th), Little,
Michel, Moffatt, Morgan,
Pickering, Posey, Thomas,
Walley, Walls, White,
Wilemon

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 517

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL AUDREY DARON LUNSFORD OF SARDIS,
3 MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS A COMBAT CASUALTY IN IRAQ ON MONDAY, MAY 23,
4 2005, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Corporal Audrey Daron Lunsford, 29, of Sardis,
6 Mississippi, was killed on Monday, May 23, 2005, when a bomb
7 exploded near his Humvee in Haswa, 30 miles south of Baghdad,
8 Iraq, one of four members of the Mississippi-based 155th Brigade
9 Combat Team; and

10 WHEREAS, carried by a military honor guard, he came home to
11 his community and family, and was buried Thursday, June 2, 2005,
12 with full military honors; and

13 WHEREAS, the 155th Infantry Brigade Combat Team includes
14 3,500 soldiers from Mississippi and others from Vermont and
15 Arkansas. The 155th, which is attached to the II Marine
16 Expeditionary Force, operates in the Karbala, Najaf and Babil
17 provinces of Iraq. The soldiers trained at Camp Shelby before
18 being deployed to Iraq in January. The deaths of these four brave
19 guardsmen brings the total in the 155th Brigade to at least 10 in
20 2005. Since military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq began, 32
21 soldiers with ties to Mississippi have died. The Mississippi
22 National Guard has sustained the fourth-highest number of
23 casualties of any state; and

24 WHEREAS, Corporal Lunsford would have celebrated his 30th
25 birthday on May 31, 2005. He had attended Northwest Mississippi
26 Community College, had worked for the Batesville Fire Department,

27 and had been a member of the Sardis Police Department before
28 leaving to work as a plumber; and

29 WHEREAS, Reverend Steve Cannon was Corporal Lunsford's
30 father-in-law and Pastor who stated that Daron was "witty, funny
31 and always polite." He had previously served in the Army prior to
32 joining the Mississippi National Guard in December 2004 to
33 "contribute to his country and to his family." He loved to take
34 his wife and daughter on evening rides in his Jeep, and his last
35 communication to his wife promised to take them on a family trip;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, during his funeral, Corporal Lunsford was awarded
38 the Bronze Star, the Mississippi Medal of Valor and the Purple
39 Heart posthumously by Major General Harold Cross, Adjutant General
40 of Mississippi; and

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

45 WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife, Vangi Cannon Lunsford of
46 Sardis, Mississippi; his young daughter, Paris-Audrey McKalayne
47 Lunsford; his mother, Martha Brown Lunsford of Sardis; one sister,
48 Donna Green Miller of Guin, Alabama; two brothers, David Smith of
49 Sardis and Danny Green of Russelville, Arkansas; his grandmother,
50 Louise Brown of Sardis; and other relatives and numerous close
51 friends; and

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

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
61 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
62 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
63 Corporal Audrey Daron Lunsford of Sardis, Mississippi, who was a
64 combat casualty in Iraq on Monday, May 23, 2005, and express to
65 his surviving family the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature
66 and our sorrow on his passing.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
68 the surviving family of Corporal Lunsford and be made available to
69 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.