

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

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 521

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND  
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST DANIEL VARNADO OF GULFPORT,  
3 MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS A COMBAT CASUALTY IN IRAQ ON MONDAY, MAY 23,  
4 2005, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Specialist Daniel Varnado, 23, of Gulfport,  
6 Mississippi, and a native of Saucier, Mississippi, was killed on  
7 Monday, May 23, 2005, when a bomb exploded near his Humvee in  
8 Haswa, 30 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq, one of four members of the  
9 Mississippi-based 155th Brigade Combat Team; and

10 WHEREAS, carried by a military honor guard, he came home to  
11 his community and family, and was buried Friday, June 3, 2005, at  
12 Biloxi National Cemetery, Biloxi, Mississippi, with full military  
13 honors; and

14 WHEREAS, the 155th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, known as  
15 "Dixie Thunder", includes 3,500 soldiers from Mississippi and  
16 others from Vermont and Arkansas. The 155th, which is attached to  
17 the II Marine Expeditionary Force, operates in the Karbala, Najaf  
18 and Babil provinces of Iraq. The soldiers trained at Camp Shelby  
19 before being deployed to Iraq in January 2004. The deaths of  
20 these four brave guardsmen brings the total in the 155th Brigade  
21 to at least 10 in 2005. Since military operations in Afghanistan  
22 and Iraq began, 32 soldiers with ties to Mississippi have died.  
23 The Mississippi National Guard has sustained the fourth-highest  
24 number of casualties of any state; and

25 WHEREAS, Spec. Varnado played baseball at Mississippi Gulf  
26 Coast Community College before being deployed to Iraq in January,  
27 2004. He had signed a letter of intent to pitch at the University

28 of West Alabama at Livingston, which was to be honored when he  
29 returned from active duty. Danny had played high school baseball  
30 at Harrison Central and had volunteered as an umpire for the Babe  
31 Ruth league in Orange Grove. He is remembered as a down-to-earth,  
32 popular guy who had a life-long dream to pitch in the major  
33 leagues. He was a great leader on the "ball field and on the  
34 battlefield"; and

35 WHEREAS, during his funeral, Specialist Varnado was awarded  
36 the Bronze Star, the Mississippi Medal of Valor and the Purple  
37 Heart posthumously by Major General Harold Cross, Adjutant General  
38 of Mississippi; and

39 WHEREAS, his family 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, Danny Varnado is survived by his wife, Sharon; a  
44 2-year-old son, Kannon Joshua Varnado (named for the tattoo of a  
45 cannon on Danny's arm because of the speed of his fastball);  
46 parents, David and Joni Varnado of Saucier; brother, Dusty  
47 Varnado; sister, Destini Varnado; grandparents, Delphine Varnado,  
48 Gwen Stokes and Bruce Allen; and other relatives and friends; and

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

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
58 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
59 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of  
60 Specialist Daniel (Danny) Varnado of Gulfport, Mississippi, who

61 was killed in action in Iraq on Monday, May 23, 2005, and extend  
62 the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to his family and our  
63 sorrow on his passing.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
65 the surviving family of Specialist Varnado and be made available  
66 to members of the Capitol Press Corps.