

By: Senator(s) Butler

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE GALLANT SERVICE OF SERGEANT
2 FIRST CLASS ELLIS MARTIN OF SUMMIT, MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS SEVERELY
3 WOUNDED IN IRAQ AND WAS AWARDED THE ARMY'S PURPLE HEART
4 DECORATION.

5 WHEREAS, on May 24, 2005, family members and friends joined
6 military officials to welcome home Sergeant First Class Ellis
7 Martin of Summit, Mississippi, a member of the Army National
8 Guard's 155th Brigade Combat Team, who was critically wounded more
9 than two months ago in Iraq; and

10 WHEREAS, Martin was escorted into the Jackson International
11 Airport terminal by Major General Harold Cross, Adjutant General
12 for the Mississippi Army National Guard; and

13 WHEREAS, Sergeant Martin and Sergeant Robert Shane Pugh were
14 injured in March 2005 when an improvised explosive device
15 detonated near their vehicle 30 miles south of Baghdad. Sergeant
16 Pugh, a Combat Medic with the 155th, was credited with helping his
17 wounded comrade before dying; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Martin passed through an Honor Guard of
19 soldiers at the airport in a motorized wheelchair before being
20 presented the Purple Heart by General Cross, who called Martin a
21 "great warrior." His wife, Stephanie, and Amanda Pugh, wife of
22 his fallen comrade, were at his side; and

23 WHEREAS, General Cross said earlier that Martin needed 52
24 units of blood while en route from Iraq to a hospital in Germany.
25 Martin later underwent several surgeries at Walter Reed Army
26 Medical Center in Washington, D.C., but came home to Mississippi
27 to see his 18-year-old daughter graduate from high school; and

28 WHEREAS, the 155th Brigade Combat Team consists of nearly
29 3,500 soldiers from Mississippi, Arkansas and Vermont. The
30 soldiers trained at Camp Shelby near Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and
31 deployed in January; and

32 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict,
33 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride
34 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great
35 American and Mississippian, who is the guardian of civilization as
36 we know it today:

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
38 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the gallant service of
39 Sergeant First Class Ellis Martin of Summit, Mississippi, who was
40 severely wounded in Iraq and was awarded the Army's Purple Heart
41 Decoration by the President of the United States, and extend the
42 thoughts and prayers of the Senate to his family for his speedy
43 recovery.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
45 Sergeant Martin and his family and be made available to the
46 Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard and the Capitol
47 Press Corps.