

By: Representative Clarke

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND PERSONAL SACRIFICE OF
2 MARINE LANCE CORPORAL DION M. WHITLEY AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST
3 SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Dion M. Whitley departed this earthly
5 life on June 15, 2005, laying his life on the line to uphold the
6 liberties of a free and democratic government, causing great
7 sorrow and loss to his family and friends; and

8 WHEREAS, known to friends and family as a "gentle giant,"
9 Lance Corporal Whitley always dreamed of enlisting in the United
10 States Marines, seizing every opportunity to speak of his goal of
11 enlisting and often writing about the Marines in his high school
12 essays; and

13 WHEREAS, overcoming a personal obstacle of his own, Lance
14 Corporal Whitley engaged himself in a rigorous daily exercise
15 regiment, even training with recruiters to emphasize to them his
16 commitment to obtaining his goal; and

17 WHEREAS, becoming a Marine was only the first of several
18 plans Lance Corporal Whitley had for his life, wanting to use his
19 military pay and benefits to go to college, buy a home and start a
20 business; and

21 WHEREAS, born in Rock Island, Illinois, Lance Corporal
22 Whitley, who was raised by a single mother and lived nearly all
23 his life in Altadena, California, thrived in the Boy Scouts and
24 achieved the rank of Eagle Scout; and

25 WHEREAS, Lance Corporal Whitley entered the Marines shortly
26 after graduating from John Muir High School in 2002, assigned to
27 the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, 1st

28 Marine Expeditionary Force at Camp Pendleton, and was deployed to
29 Iraq in March 2005; and

30 WHEREAS, a loving son, brother and friend, Lance Corporal
31 Whitley will be sorely missed by those who experienced the depth
32 of his love, commitment and compassion for life and pursuit of
33 freedom for all, but the legacy of his memory will forever be
34 etched in the hearts and memories of his survivors, including:
35 his mother, Deborah Whitley; and brother, Arian Whitley; and a
36 host of other relatives and friends; and

37 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
38 recognize and commend excellence in such outstanding soldiers as
39 evidenced by the life and merits of Lance Corporal Whitley, whose
40 gift to this nation was the ultimate sacrifice of life in order
41 that others may have the opportunity to experience a life of
42 freedom, peace and prosperity that we as citizens of these United
43 States of America are privileged to share daily:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
45 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
46 commend the life, services and accomplishments of Lance Corporal
47 Dion M. Whitley and express our deepest sympathy to his family and
48 friends upon his passing.

49 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
50 furnished to the family of Lance Corporal Whitley and to the
51 members of the Capitol Press Corps.