

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE  
2 SERVICE, BRAVERY AND DEDICATION OF THE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN OF  
3 THE 155TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL  
4 GUARD FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE UNITED  
5 STATES AND WELCOMING THEM HOME AFTER A SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF DUTY.

6 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature wishes to acknowledge  
7 the many sacrifices made by the service men and women of the 155th  
8 Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi Army National Guard for  
9 their meritorious service in the war against terrorism that is  
10 being waged by the United States both at home and overseas; and

11 WHEREAS, Mississippi's citizens have always been more than  
12 willing to serve their country during times of conflict across the  
13 world, as demonstrated by these valiant soldiers, and many have  
14 given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in times of war; and

15 WHEREAS, mobilized in September 2004, and representing more  
16 than 3,000 soldiers from 49 communities throughout the state, as  
17 well as soldiers from Arkansas, Vermont, Utah and the 2nd of the  
18 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi,  
19 these "citizen soldiers" embarked upon both missions to secure and  
20 preserve peace and to protect the lives and interests of all  
21 Americans, thus exhibiting the high caliber and readiness of our  
22 state's troops; and

23 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Brigadier General Augustus  
24 Leon Collins, the 155th arrived in Iraq in January 2005 in support  
25 of Operation Iraqi Freedom where they served with the 1st and 2nd  
26 Marine Expeditionary Forces and performed beyond all expectations;  
27 and

28           WHEREAS, while on duty, the brigade conducted more than 500  
29 brigade level operations, task force level operations, raids,  
30 platoon and company joint cordon and searches and combat missions;  
31 and

32           WHEREAS, to highlight the proficient and efficient skills of  
33 our native sons and daughters while in Iraqi combat, the brigade  
34 conducted over 400 explosive ordinance disposal missions, located  
35 and destroyed over 6,000 small arms, 24 machine guns, 217 rocket  
36 propelled grenades, 295 mortar tubes, 10,000 mortar rounds, 25,000  
37 artillery rounds, 84,000 pounds of propellant, 71,000 rounds of  
38 ammunition, 55 land mines, 360 grenades, 109 launchers, 40  
39 surface-to-air missiles and nearly 5,000 miscellaneous weapons;  
40 and

41           WHEREAS, unselfishly exhibiting courage under fire at every  
42 moment, the members of the 155th conducted combat operations  
43 resulting in the detainment of over 1,500 suspected insurgents  
44 with almost half being imprisoned at Abu Gharib Prison; and

45           WHEREAS, the brigade team participated in and facilitated  
46 three national level free elections in Iraq to help ensure the  
47 democratic process with an 83% voter turnout in the brigade's area  
48 of operations; and

49           WHEREAS, having conducted numerous humanitarian projects  
50 rebuilding schools, clinics, hospitals, police stations and  
51 critical infrastructure such as water, sewer, electrical and  
52 reconstruction, the 155th's active involvement in local  
53 communities was a catalyst allowing these projects to receive more  
54 than \$100 million; and

55           WHEREAS, training and partnering with Iraqi Security Forces  
56 to assist in security during the humanitarian projects, the 155th  
57 relinquished its authority in Najaf, Karbala, North Babil and Al  
58 Anbar, Iraq, to the soldiers of the United States Army's 4th  
59 Infantry Division on January 1, 2006, signaling an official end to  
60 a year in combat; and

61           WHEREAS, during their service of supporting Operation Iraqi  
62 Freedom, many were wounded in battle while conducting their  
63 various operations, and 14 fellow brethren of the Mississippi  
64 based brigade team paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms;  
65 and

66           WHEREAS, with the return of the 155th, the Mississippi  
67 National Guard now has the most combat veterans since World War  
68 II; and

69           WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, a countless number of  
70 soldiers and airmen of the Mississippi National Guard have been  
71 called to active service in defense of our nation's freedom,  
72 constituting the largest overseas deployment of the Mississippi  
73 National Guard since the Korean War; and

74           WHEREAS, the dedication of the many men and women of the  
75 155th Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi Army National Guard  
76 in providing valuable assistance to the United States military has  
77 helped instill confidence in the general public that they have  
78 been, are and forever will be committed to this nation's security;  
79 and

80           WHEREAS, Governor Haley Barbour, Commander in Chief, along  
81 with Adjutant General Major General Harold Cross, whose leadership  
82 and dedication is known throughout the military of the United  
83 States, continues to guide and command units of the Mississippi  
84 National Guard in mobilizations and deployments, and through state  
85 emergencies including hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes and  
86 security at critical sites in the State of Mississippi; and

87           WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature finds it most  
88 appropriate to recognize and commend the diligence of these  
89 outstanding Mississippi men and women for the devotion, courage  
90 and their duty to their state, nation and free world to secure and  
91 insure peace and to preserve and protect freedom for all:

92           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
93 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING

94 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the 155th Brigade Combat Team  
95 of the Mississippi Army National Guard personnel for their service  
96 to the State of Mississippi and the United States, welcome them  
97 home upon the completion of a successful tour of duty in Iraq and  
98 extend our heartiest wishes for continued success in all their  
99 future endeavors.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
101 furnished to the commanding officers of the 155th Brigade Combat  
102 Team, the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard and  
103 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.