

By: Representatives Gregory, Young, Snowden, To: Rules
Robinson (84th), Horne

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 37

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE MERITORIOUS AND UNSELFISH SERVICE
2 OF THE 238TH AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON DURING THEIR TOUR OF
3 DUTY IN THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR.

4 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature wishes to acknowledge
5 the many sacrifices made by the service of the 238th Air Support
6 Operations Squadron (ASOS) for their meritorious service in the
7 war against terrorism that is being waged by the United States
8 both at home and overseas; and

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

13 WHEREAS, in March 2003, when United States Armed Forces
14 entered Iraq from Kuwait at the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom,
15 six members of the 238th ASOS were embedded with the 101st
16 Airborne to provide Close Air Support (CAS), while three other
17 members were working with Special Operations Command in the
18 Pacific, Europe and Southwest Asia in support of Operation
19 Enduring Freedom and the global war on terror; and

20 WHEREAS, receiving notification in October 2003 of a one-year
21 mobilization commencing in January 2004 to support Arkansas' 39th
22 Infantry Brigade, the 238th's presence completed the round-out
23 brigade to the 1st Cavalry Division with division headquarters to
24 be located at Camp Victory, just outside of Baghdad International
25 Airport (BIAP), Baghdad, Iraq; and

26 WHEREAS, the 238th ASOS embarked upon both missions to secure
27 and preserve peace and to protect the lives and interests of all

28 Americans, thus exhibiting the high caliber and readiness of our
29 state's military personnel; and

30 WHEREAS, in the fall of 2004 the squadron again received
31 notification of another one-year mobilization to begin in January
32 2005 supporting Mississippi's 155th Brigade Combat Team at Forward
33 Operating Base (FOB), Kalsu, Iraq; and

34 WHEREAS, the squadron's mobilizations were accomplished
35 through eight separate rotations of approximately 120 days
36 duration and rotation size of six to 12 airmen; and

37 WHEREAS, 49 airmen from the 238th ASOS served at least one
38 tour, 17 of which served two tours and one, Tech Sergeant Scott
39 Self, served three tours, once in 2003, 2004 and 2005; and

40 WHEREAS, unselfishly exhibiting courage under fire at every
41 moment, 238th personnel served in An Najaf, Sadr City, Taji,
42 Fallujah, Mosul, Baghdad and Karbala while providing support to:
43 the 101st Airborne Division, 1st Cavalry Division, 39th Infantry
44 Brigade, 155th Brigade Combat Team, the 5th and 10th Special
45 Forces Group, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, 24th Marine
46 Expeditionary Unit, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, 25th Infantry
47 and the 151st Aviation Brigade; and

48 WHEREAS, highlighting the commendable service of these
49 selfless airmen of the 238th, 54 medals have been issued to
50 members: six Bronze Star Medals have been awarded, one of which
51 was awarded with Valor to Senior Airman James Munn for his actions
52 in Fallujah; five Meritorious Service Medals; eight Air Force
53 Commendation Medals; seven Air Force Achievement Medals; 26 Army
54 Commendation Medals; one Army Achievement Medal; and the issuance
55 of additional medals pending certification; and

56 WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, a countless number of
57 soldiers and airmen of the Mississippi Army and Air National Guard
58 have been called to active service in defense of our nation's
59 freedom, constituting the largest overseas deployment of the
60 Mississippi National Guard since the Korean War; and

61 WHEREAS, the dedication of the airmen of the 238th Air
62 Support Operations Squadron of the Mississippi Air National Guard
63 in providing valuable assistance to the United States military has
64 helped instill confidence in the general public that they have
65 been, are and forever will be committed to this nation's security;
66 and

67 WHEREAS, Governor Haley Barbour, Commander in Chief, along
68 with Adjutant General Major General Harold Cross, whose leadership
69 and dedication is known throughout the military of the United
70 States, continues to guide and command units of the Mississippi
71 National Guard in mobilizations and deployments, and through state
72 emergencies including hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes and
73 security at critical sites in the State of Mississippi; and

74 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
75 recognize and commend the diligence of these outstanding
76 Mississippi men and women for the devotion, courage and service to
77 the state, the nation and the free world to secure and insure
78 peace and to preserve and protect freedom for all:

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
80 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
81 commend the 238th Air Support Operations Squadron for their
82 service to the State of Mississippi and the United States,
83 congratulate them upon the completion of a successful tour of duty
84 in Iraq and extend our heartiest wishes for continued success in
85 all their future endeavors.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
87 furnished to the commanding officers of the 238th Air Support
88 Operations Squadron, the Adjutant General of the Mississippi
89 National Guard and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.