

By: Representatives Ellis, Gibbs, Harrison

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 43

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING CORPORAL MELVIN
2 JEROME GATEWOOD FOR BEING AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART AND PRAISING
3 HIM FOR HIS BRAVE SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY DURING THE WAR
4 AGAINST IRAQ.

5 WHEREAS, Corporal Melvin Jerome Gatewood was awarded the
6 Purple Heart for his brave service to the United States while
7 serving in the war against Iraq and surviving injuries during
8 battle; and

9 WHEREAS, he is the son of Ms. Mildred Gatewood Smith and Mr.
10 Ronald L. Gatewood, Sr.; and

11 WHEREAS, on April 19, 2005, Corporal Gatewood, a member of
12 Columbus-based Battery A of the 2nd Battalion, 114th Field
13 Artillery in Starkville, was wounded near Baghdad, Iraq, when a
14 roadside improvised explosive device detonated near the Humvee in
15 which he was a passenger; and

16 WHEREAS, as a result of the detonation, the Humvee flipped
17 and caught fire causing Corporal Gatewood to suffer burns to his
18 hands and back; two other Columbus men, Sergeant Wyman H. Jones
19 and Private First Class Stephen B. Brooks, were injured; and one
20 man, Staff Sergeant Tommy A. Little, of Aliceville, Alabama, was
21 killed in the attack; and

22 WHEREAS, in spite of his wounds, Corporal Gatewood went back
23 to rescue other wounded soldiers from the blazing Humvee; and

24 WHEREAS, after witnessing the rescues, Captain David Martian,
25 Corporal Gatewood's commander, credited Corporal Gatewood's
26 bravery for giving him "the strength to do everything he did" that
27 day as commander, and has written Corporal Gatewood's mother
28 stating that her son "is quite a man"; and

29 WHEREAS, this decorated soldier began giving his time, talent
30 and skills to the citizens of Mississippi in April 2000 when he
31 served as a page for Representative Tyrone Ellis; and

32 WHEREAS, many other military honors have been bestowed upon
33 Corporal Gatewood, such as the National Defense Service Medal, the
34 Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon,
35 the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device and the Iraq
36 Campaign Medal; and

37 WHEREAS, service in the military is a family affair for the
38 Gatewoods, as his brother, Ronald Lynn Gatewood, Jr., and two
39 cousins, Sampson Edmond, III, and Sergeant Terrence A. Elizenberry
40 are currently serving in the war; and

41 WHEREAS, Corporal Gatewood acknowledges that "being so young
42 and far from home was a challenge"; and

43 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
44 recognize and pay special tribute to extraordinary men such as
45 Corporal Gatewood who have fought for the security of our nation:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
47 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do commend
48 and congratulate Corporal Melvin Jerome Gatewood for being awarded
49 the Purple Heart and praise him for his bravery as a soldier in
50 the United States Army during the Iraqi War.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
52 furnished to the family of Corporal Melvin Jerome Gatewood and to
53 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.