

By: Representative Montgomery

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 72

1 A RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND COMMENDING  
2 THE DEVOTION, COURAGE AND SACRIFICE OF THE PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI,  
3 NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS FROM COMPANY A 1-198TH ARMOR BATTALION OF  
4 THE 155TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM FOLLOWING OPERATIONS IN IRAQ, AND  
5 COMMEMORATING THE OBSERVATION OF OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM DAY IN  
6 PONTOTOC.

7 WHEREAS, Company A 1-198th Armor Battalion of the 155th  
8 Brigade Combat Team (BCT) is comprised of members of the  
9 Mississippi National Guard from the Pontotoc, Mississippi, area  
10 who have recently returned from combat and humanitarian operations  
11 in Iraq; and

12 WHEREAS, the 155th Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi  
13 Army National Guard was mobilized in September 2004 representing  
14 over 3,000 soldiers from 49 communities throughout Mississippi;  
15 and

16 WHEREAS, the 155th Brigade Combat Team, which is attached to  
17 the II Marine Expeditionary Force, also had soldiers from other  
18 states: Arkansas, Vermont, Utah and the 2nd of the 11th Armored  
19 Cavalry Regiment who trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, for four  
20 months prior to its deployment to Iraq; the 155th Brigade Combat  
21 Team arrived in Iraq in January 2005 in support of Operation Iraqi  
22 Freedom; and

23 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Brigadier General Augustus  
24 Leon Collins, the brigade performed beyond all expectations; and

25 WHEREAS, while in Iraq, the Pontotoc Unit of the 155th  
26 conducted the following combat, security and humanitarian missions  
27 in the area of Karbala and Al Hit, Iraq:

28 • Turned over security authority in Karbala to new Iraqi  
29 Forces;

- 30           • Trained and partnered with the Iraqi Security Forces;
- 31           • Set up security in Iraq's First Primary Elections;
- 32           • Provided security at water reconstruction projects in
- 33 Karbala;
- 34           • Maintained security during the Celebration of Ashura for
- 35 the Muslim Shiite people;
- 36           • Assisted in conducting humanitarian projects in rebuilding
- 37 schools, clinics, hospitals, police stations and crucial
- 38 infrastructures such as water, sewer and electrical systems;
- 39           • Trained and partnered with the Iraqi Security Forces to
- 40 assist in security during various humanitarian and construction
- 41 projects;
- 42           • Operated the Karbala Joint Coordination Center (JCC) which
- 43 was responsible for the coordination of all Iraqi and United
- 44 States Security Forces in the Karbala Province;
- 45           • Conducted hundreds of combat patrols providing security
- 46 for the Karbala and Al Anbar Province;
- 47           • Aided in capture of insurgents;
- 48           • Maintained security in the first elections of ratification
- 49 of the Iraqi Constitution at Al Hit and maintained security for
- 50 the First Parliamentary Elections;
- 51           • Operated under the Direct Command of the 2nd Marine
- 52 Division and aided in Operations-Operation Iron Hammer, Iron Fist
- 53 and River Sweep; and

54           WHEREAS, due to the 155th Brigade Combat Team's active

55 involvement in local communities, almost \$100 million was

56 committed to these humanitarian and construction projects; and

57           WHEREAS, during their service supporting Operation Iraqi

58 Freedom, many received wounds while conducting combat operations,

59 and 14 Mississippians paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom;

60 and

61           WHEREAS, with the return of the 155th Brigade Combat Team,  
62 the Mississippi National Guard now has the most combat veterans  
63 since World War II; and

64           WHEREAS, March 24, 2006, has been set aside in observation of  
65 Operation Iraqi Freedom Day in Pontotoc, Mississippi, to  
66 commemorate the valiant and heroic efforts of Company A 1-198th  
67 Armor Battalion of the 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT); and

68           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
69 recognize and commend the heroic action of a great Mississippi  
70 fighting unit such as Company A 1-198th Armor Battalion of the  
71 155th Brigade Combat Team a guardian of freedom as we know it  
72 today:

73           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
74 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
75 recognize the gallant service and commend the devotion, courage  
76 and sacrifice of the Pontotoc, Mississippi, National Guard  
77 soldiers of Company A 1-198th Armor Battalion of the 155th Brigade  
78 Combat Team of the Mississippi National Guard following their  
79 return from operations in Iraq, commemorate the observance of  
80 Operation Iraqi Freedom Day in Pontotoc, extend appreciation to  
81 these men and women and their families for their duty to our  
82 state, our nation and to the free world as we welcome them home.

83           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
84 furnished to the Commanding Officer of Company A 1-198th Armor  
85 Battalion in Pontotoc, Mississippi, Mississippi Adjutant General  
86 Harold Cross and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.