

By: Senator(s) Dearing, Butler

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 516

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT WILLARD TODD
3 PARTRIDGE OF NATCHEZ, MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS KILLED IN IRAQ ON
4 SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2005.

5 WHEREAS, United States Army Sergeant Willard Todd Partridge,
6 a military policeman who had just turned 35, was killed on
7 Saturday, August 20, 2005, when a bomb exploded near the vehicle
8 he was driving while on duty near Baghdad, Iraq. Sergeant
9 Partridge was assigned to the 170th Military Police Company, 504th
10 Military Police Battalion, 42nd Military Police Brigade, Fort
11 Lewis, Washington; and

12 WHEREAS, carried by military honor guard, he came home to his
13 community and family to be buried on Friday, September 2, 2005,
14 with full military honors; and

15 WHEREAS, since military operations began in Iraq and
16 Afghanistan, 38 soldiers or sailors with Mississippi ties have
17 been killed during operations; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge was born in Ferriday, Concordia
19 Parish, Louisiana, and he grew up in Natchez, Mississippi. It was
20 in a quest to better support his family that Sergeant Partridge, a
21 1988 South Natchez High School graduate who trained in
22 refrigeration and welding at Copiah-Lincoln Community College,
23 joined the Army. He had only been in the service for two years;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, family members remembered Sergeant Partridge as a
26 wonderful father. He loved the outdoors, was an avid hunter, and
27 advanced to regional and state championships in baseball in his
28 youth, showing talent as a pitcher. He was also remembered as a

29 committed Christian; the family attended First Baptist Church in
30 Natchez; and

31 WHEREAS, at his funeral, Sergeant Partridge was posthumously
32 awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Mississippi
33 Medal of Valor by Brigadier General Troy Williams; and

34 WHEREAS, Sergeant Partridge is survived by his wife, Rhonda;
35 two daughters, Kelsee and Kymberlee, ages 11 and 9, respectively;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, to a country, a fallen soldier means a national
38 loss; to a community, a fallen soldier means a true hero; to a
39 parent, a fallen soldier means a son who won't be coming home.
40 Mississippians understand the costs of conflict, because we have
41 paid them in the past, and it is with great pride and humility
42 that we recognize the heroic action of this great American and
43 Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization as we know it
44 today:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
46 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
47 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
48 United States Army Sergeant Willard Todd Partridge of Natchez,
49 Mississippi, who was killed in action in Iraq on Saturday, August
50 20, 2005, and extend the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature
51 to his family and our sorrow on his passing.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
53 the surviving family of Sergeant Partridge and be made available
54 to the Capitol Press Corps.