

By: Senator(s) Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 533

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SERGEANT
3 TRAVIS SENTELL COOPER OF MACON, MISSISSIPPI, WHO DIED FROM
4 INJURIES RECEIVED IN IRAQ ON SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2005, AND EXPRESS
5 THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

6 WHEREAS, Mississippi Army National Guard Sergeant Travis
7 Sentell Cooper, 24, of Macon, Mississippi, died on Sunday, July
8 16, 2005, one day after he was injured when a vehicle carrying a
9 bomb exploded at a checkpoint near U.S. Military Base Kalsu, 25
10 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq; and

11 WHEREAS, Sergeant Cooper was a member of the 2nd Battalion,
12 114th Field Artillery Regiment, which has its headquarters in
13 Starkville, Mississippi, and was assigned for deployment to Hotel
14 Company, TF2-11 ACR, dismounted team member for the second
15 platoon; and

16 WHEREAS, carried by a military honor guard, he came home to
17 his community and family, and was buried on Sunday, July 24, 2005,
18 at Odd Fellows Cemetery in Macon, Mississippi. At graveside,
19 Major General Harold Cross, Adjutant General of the Mississippi
20 National Guard, awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and
21 Mississippi Medal of Honor to Cooper posthumously and presented
22 folded American Flags to his father and brother; and

23 WHEREAS, since operations began in Iraq and Afghanistan, 37
24 soldiers or sailors with Mississippi ties have died, and Sergeant
25 Cooper is the second soldier from the Starkville unit to die in
26 Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

27 WHEREAS, Sergeant Cooper attended the Noxubee County schools
28 and earned his GED in 1998. He joined the Mississippi Army

29 National Guard in 2000 and was stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma,
30 for unit training. Sergeant Cooper was preceded in death by his
31 mother, Velma Cooper. He is survived by his father, Eddie Tate of
32 Columbus; step-father, Freddie Williams of Macon; brother, Antwan
33 Cooper of Macon; three step-sisters, Peneshia Williams of Macon,
34 and Lashae Shackelford and Nikesha Tate, both of Columbus; four
35 step-brothers, Hugh Jordan of Starkville, Freddie Williams, Jr.,
36 of Macon, and Demarquis Tate and Rashawn Tate, both of Columbus;
37 grandmothers, Ollie Bell Mason of Macon, and Sylvia Tate of
38 Columbus; fiancé, Selethia Malone of Macon; and a number of aunts,
39 uncles and cousins; and

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

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
50 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
51 Mississippi National Guard Sergeant Travis Sentell Cooper of
52 Macon, Mississippi, who died from injuries received in Iraq on
53 Sunday, July 16, 2005, and extend the thoughts and prayers of the
54 Legislature to his family and our sorrow on his passing.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
56 the surviving family of Sergeant Cooper and be make available to
57 the Capitol Press Corps.