

By: Senator(s) Little, White, Brown,
 Browning, Bryan, Burton, Butler, Carmichael,
 Chaney, Clarke, Davis, Dawkins, Dearing,
 Doxey, Flowers, Frazier, Gordon, Harden,
 Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th),
 Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Kirby, Lee
 (35th), Mettetal, Michel, Moffatt, Morgan,
 Pickering, Posey, Robertson, Thames, Thomas,
 Tollison, Wilemon, Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 552

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
 2 COMMENDING THE DEVOTION, COURAGE AND DUTY OF THE 155TH BRIGADE
 3 COMBAT TEAM OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD FOLLOWING OPERATIONS
 4 IN IRAQ.

5 WHEREAS, the 155th Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi
 6 Army National Guard was mobilized in September 2004 representing
 7 over 3,000 soldiers from 49 communities throughout Mississippi;
 8 and

9 WHEREAS, the 155th Brigade Combat Team, which is attached to
 10 the II Marine Expeditionary Force, also had soldiers from other
 11 states: Arkansas, Vermont, Utah and the 2nd of the 11th Armored
 12 Cavalry Regiment who trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, for four
 13 months prior to its deployment to Iraq; and

14 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT arrived in Iraq in January 2005 in
 15 support of operation Iraqi freedom and served with the 1st and 2nd
 16 Marine expeditionary forces; and

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

19 WHEREAS, while in Iraq, the brigade conducted brigade level
 20 operations, task force level operations, raids, platoon and
 21 company joint cordon and searches, and combat missions totaling
 22 over 500; and

23 WHEREAS, the brigade conducted over 400 explosive ordinance
 24 disposal missions while in Iraq; and

25 WHEREAS, the brigade located and destroyed over 6,000 small
 26 arms; 24 machine guns; 217 rocket-propelled grenades; 295 mortar
 27 tubes; 10,000 mortar rounds; 25,000 artillery rounds; 84,000
 28 pounds of propellant; 71,000 rounds of ammunition; 55 land mines;

29 260 grenades; 109 launchers; 40 surface-to-air missiles and nearly
30 5,000 miscellaneous weapons; and

31 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT conducted combat operations resulting
32 in the detainment of over 1,500 suspected insurgents with almost
33 half of these sent to Abu Gharib Prison; and

34 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT participated and facilitated three
35 national-level free elections in Iraq to help ensure the
36 democratic process with an 83% voter turnout in the brigade's area
37 of operations; and

38 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT conducted numerous humanitarian
39 projects in rebuilding schools, clinics, hospitals, police
40 stations and critical infrastructure such as water, sewer,
41 electrical and reconstruction; and

42 WHEREAS, due to the 155th BCT's active involvement in local
43 communities, almost \$100 Million was committed to these
44 humanitarian and construction projects; and

45 WHEREAS, the soldiers of the 155th BCT trained and partnered
46 with Iraqi security forces to assist in security during these
47 humanitarian projects; and

48 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT turned over its authority in Najaf,
49 Karbala, North Babil and Al Anbar, Iraq, to the soldiers of the
50 U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division on January 1, 2006, signaling an
51 official end to a year of combat for the Mississippi soldiers; and

52 WHEREAS, during their service supporting Operation Iraqi
53 Freedom, many received wounds while conducting combat operations,
54 and 14 Mississippians paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom;
55 and

56 WHEREAS, the following are the 14 Mississippi soldiers of the
57 155th Brigade Combat Team who were killed in action in support of
58 Operation Iraqi Freedom:

59 RANK/NAME	AGE	SOLDIER'S HOMETOWN	DATE OF DEATH
60 MSG Sean M. Cooley	35	Ocean Springs, MS	4-Feb-05
61 SGT Robert A. McNail	30	Meridian, MS	11-Feb-05

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62	SGT Joseph A. "Drew"			
63	Rahaim	22	Laurel, MS	16-Feb-05
64	SGT Timothy R. Osbey	29	Magnolia, MS	16-Feb-05
65	SGT Robert S. Pugh	25	Meridian, MS	2-Mar-05
66	SSG Tommy S. Little	47	Aliceville, AL	2-May-05
67	SGT Audrey D. Lunsford	29	Sardis, MS	23-May-05
68	SFC Saburant Parker	42	Foxworth, MS	23-May-05
69	SGT Daniel R. Varnado	23	Saucier, MS	23-May-05
70	SPC Bryan D. Barron	26	Biloxi, MS	23-May-05
71	SSG Larry R. Arnold, Sr.	46	Carriere, MS	11-Jun-05
72	SGT Terrance D. Lee, Sr.	25	Moss Point, MS	11-Jun-05
73	SSG Travis S. Cooper	24	Macon, MS	16-Jul-05
74	1Lt Robert C.			
75	Oneto-Sikorski	33	Bay St. Louis, MS	31-Oct-05;

76 and

77 WHEREAS, with the return of the 155th BCT, the Mississippi
78 National Guard now has the most combat veterans since World War
79 II; and

80 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict,
81 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride
82 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great
83 Mississippi fighting unit, which is the guardian of civilization
84 as we know it today:

85 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
86 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
87 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the devotion
88 and courage of the 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of the
89 Mississippi National Guard following their return from operations
90 in Iraq, we extend the thanks of the Legislature to these men and
91 women and their families for their duty to our state, our nation
92 and to the free world and we welcome them home.

93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
94 the Commanding Officer of the 155th and to Mississippi Adjutant

95 General Harold Cross and be made available to the Capitol Press
96 Corps.