

By: Senator(s) Wilemon, Browning, Burton, Butler, Carmichael, Chaney, Gordon, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Lee (35th), Little, Morgan, Posey, Thomas, White, Mettetal

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 28

1 A RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND COMMENDING
2 THE DEVOTION, COURAGE AND DUTY OF THE IUKA, MISSISSIPPI, NATIONAL
3 GUARD SOLDIERS FROM COMPANY C, 1ST BN 198TH ARMOR OF THE 155TH
4 BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, FOLLOWING OPERATIONS IN IRAQ.

5 WHEREAS, Company C, 1ST BN 198th Armor of the 155th Brigade
6 Combat Team, is comprised of members of the Mississippi National
7 Guard from the Iuka, Mississippi, area who have recently returned
8 from combat and humanitarian operations in Iraq; and

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

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

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

22 WHEREAS, while in Iraq, the Iuka Unit of the 155th conducted
23 the following combat, security and humanitarian missions in the
24 area of Karbala, An Najaf, and Al Amiriyah, Iraq:

- 25 • Turned over security authority in Karbala to new Iraqi
- 26 Forces;
- 27 • Trained and partnered with the Iraqi Security Forces;
- 28 • Set up security in Iraqi's First Primary Elections;

- 29 • Provided security at water reconstruction projects in
30 Karbala;
- 31 • Maintained security during the Celebration of Ashura for
32 the Muslims Shite people;
- 33 • Assisted in conducting humanitarian projects in rebuilding
34 four schools, clinics, hospitals, police stations and crucial
35 infrastructures such as water, sewer, electrical and
36 reconstruction;
- 37 • Trained and partnered with the Iraqi Security Forces to
38 assist in security during various humanitarian and construction
39 projects;
- 40 • Operated the Karbala Joint Coordination Center (JCC) which
41 was responsible for the coordination of all Iraqi and U.S.
42 Security Forces in the Karbala Province;
- 43 • Conducted over 600 combat patrols providing security for
44 the Karbala and Al Anbar Province;
- 45 • Aided in capture of some 300 possible insurgents and
46 uncovered multiple weapons caches in Anbar Province;
- 47 • Maintained security in the first elections of ratification
48 of the Iraqi Constitution at An Najaf and Karbala Provinces and
49 maintained security for the First Parliamentary Elections; and
- 50 • Operated under the Direct Command of the 2nd Marine
51 Division and aided in Operations-Operation Iron Hammer, Iron Fist
52 and River Sweep; and

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

56 WHEREAS, during their service supporting Operation Iraqi
57 Freedom, many received wounds while conducting combat operations,
58 and 14 Mississippians paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom;
59 and

60 WHEREAS, the following are the members of Company C, 1st
61 198th Armor, who served in Iraq: SGT Jeremy Arnold, SGT Stephen

62 Bearden, 1SG Brian Belue, SGT Jason Belue, SGT Douglas Bennett,
63 SPC Russell Boren, SPC Jesse Bowden, SGT Jonathan Brown, SGT
64 Donald Bullard, SGT Christopher Clark, SSG Christopher Dinger,
65 SPC Terry Dunn, CPT Jeffrey Forsythe, SSG Jerry Gray, SFC Roger
66 Gillentine, SPC Christopher Holmes, SGT Perry Holmes, SPC Joshua
67 Hood, SGT Michael Hutcheson, SSG Arnold Jackson, SFC Terry Jaynes,
68 SGT Douglas Kilgore, SGT Glen Marsh, 2LT Robert Mathis, SSG
69 Talmadge McAnally, SPC Joey McNutt, CPT Raymond Ozment, 2LT Kacey
70 Reed, SSG Chris Reno, SGT Fairrah Shumphert, SSG Cecil Tackett,
71 SSG Richard Taylor, and SPC Chad Walters; and

72 WHEREAS, with the return of the 155th BCT, the Mississippi
73 National Guard now has the most combat veterans since World War
74 II; and

75 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict,
76 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride
77 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great
78 Mississippi fighting unit, which is the guardian of civilization
79 as we know it today:

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
81 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby remember the gallant service and
82 commend the devotion and courage of the Iuka, Mississippi,
83 National Guard Soldiers of Company C, 1st BN 198th Armor of the
84 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of the Mississippi National Guard,
85 following their return from operations in Iraq, we extend the
86 thanks of the Senate to these men and women and their families for
87 their duty to our state, our nation and to the free world and we
88 welcome them home.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
90 their company, First Sergeant Brian Belue, and to Mississippi
91 Adjutant General Harold Cross and be made available to the Capitol
92 Press Corps.