

By: Senator(s) Browning

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 36

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.

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

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

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

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

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

26 • Turned over security authority in Karbala to new Iraqi
27 Forces;

28 • Trained and partnered with the Iraqi Security Forces;

- 29 • Set up security in Iraqi's First Primary Elections;
- 30 • Provided security at water reconstruction projects in
- 31 Karbala;
- 32 • Maintained security during the Celebration of Ashura for
- 33 the Muslims Shite people;
- 34 • Assisted in conducting humanitarian projects in rebuilding
- 35 four schools, clinics, hospitals, police stations and crucial
- 36 infrastructures such as water, sewer, electrical and
- 37 reconstruction;
- 38 • Trained and partnered with the Iraqi Security Forces to
- 39 assist in security during various humanitarian and construction
- 40 projects;
- 41 • Operated the Karbala Joint Coordination Center (JCC) which
- 42 was responsible for the coordination of all Iraqi and U.S.
- 43 Security Forces in the Karbala Province;
- 44 • Conducted hundreds of combat patrols providing security
- 45 for the Karbala and Al Anbar Province;
- 46 • Aided in capture of insurgents;
- 47 • Maintained security in the first elections of ratification
- 48 of the Iraqi Constitution at Al Hit and maintained security for
- 49 the First Parliamentary Elections;
- 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 Brigade Combat Team's active

54 involvement in local communities, almost \$100 Million was

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

63 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict,
64 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride
65 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great
66 Mississippi fighting unit, which is the guardian of civilization
67 as we know it today:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
69 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby remember the gallant service and
70 commend the devotion, courage and sacrifice of the Pontotoc,
71 Mississippi, National Guard soldiers of Company A 1-198th Armor
72 Battalion of the 155th Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi
73 National Guard following their return from operations in Iraq, we
74 extend the thanks of the Senate to these men and women and their
75 families for their duty to our state, our nation and to the free
76 world and we welcome them home.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
78 their Commanding Officer, and to Mississippi Adjutant General
79 Harold Cross, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.