

By: Senator(s) Turner, Jackson (15th)

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 504

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND  
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SERGEANT COURTLAND A.  
3 KENNARD OF STARKVILLE MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN  
4 IRAQ ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2006, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF  
5 THE LEGISLATURE.

6 WHEREAS, United States Army Sergeant Courtland A. Kennard,  
7 22, of Starkville, Mississippi, was killed in action on Thursday,  
8 November 9, 2006, along with Staff Sergeant Gregory McCoy of  
9 Webberville, Michigan, when an explosive detonated near their  
10 vehicle in Baghdad, Iraq; and

11 WHEREAS, Sergeant Kennard was assigned to the Army's 410th  
12 Military Police Company, 720th Military Police Battalion, 89th  
13 Military Police Brigade based in Fort Hood, Texas. *The Associated*  
14 *Press* has counted at least 45 soldiers with strong Mississippi  
15 ties who have died in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. One,  
16 Staff Sergeant Christopher L. Robinson, died in Afghanistan; the  
17 others were killed in Iraq; and

18 WHEREAS, Sergeant Courtland Kennard attended elementary  
19 school in Starkville, Mississippi, and graduated from an American  
20 high school in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 2002, while his father was  
21 stationed there. He was a teenager when he decided he would join  
22 the military. "When he got about 14 years old, he kind of just  
23 wanted to follow his daddy's footsteps," his great-uncle, Bobby  
24 Macon, said; and

25 WHEREAS, Sergeant Kennard's parents, Douglas and Darlene  
26 Kennard, are moving back to Starkville, Mississippi, from Fort  
27 Hood, Texas, where Douglas Kennard recently retired after 21 years  
28 in the Army; and

29           WHEREAS, carried by an Army Honor Guard, he returned to his  
30 former home and was buried on Saturday, November 18, 2006, in the  
31 Memorial Garden Cemetery in Starkville, with full military honors;  
32 during the funeral he was awarded the Bronze Star; and

33           WHEREAS, since operations began in Iraq and Afghanistan, at  
34 least 45 soldiers or sailors with Mississippi ties have died in  
35 action; and

36           WHEREAS, he is survived by his parents; brother, Jamar  
37 Kennard; and grandparents, Emma Kennard and C.D., and Luevenia  
38 Simmons, all of Starkville, Mississippi; and

39           WHEREAS, Courtland Kennard is counted among America's heroes,  
40 committed to our nation's safety and security. To a country, a  
41 fallen soldier means a national loss; to a community, a fallen  
42 soldier means a true hero; to a parent, a fallen soldier means a  
43 son who won't be coming home. Mississippians understand the costs  
44 of conflict, because we have paid them in the past, and it is with  
45 great pride and humility that we recognize the heroic action of  
46 this great American and Mississippian, who was the guardian of  
47 civilization as we know it 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 United States Army Sergeant Courtland A. Kennard of Starkville,  
52 Mississippi, who was killed in action in Iraq on Thursday,  
53 November 9, 2006, and extend our thoughts and prayers to his  
54 family and our sorrow on his passing.

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