

By: Senator(s) Thomas

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 505

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO REMEMBER THE GALLANT SERVICE AND  
2 COMMEND THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT JAMES ELLIS  
3 OF YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS KILLED IN ACTION IN IRAQ ON  
4 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2006.

5 WHEREAS, United States Army Staff Sergeant James Ellis, a  
6 native of Yazoo City, Mississippi, was killed in action on  
7 Tuesday, October 3, 2006, by an exploding roadside bomb while on  
8 patrol in Baghdad, Iraq, with three fellow soldiers; and

9 WHEREAS, Sergeant Ellis was assigned to the 7th Squadron,  
10 10th Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division, and was serving his second  
11 tour of duty when he was killed; and

12 WHEREAS, Sergeant Ellis enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve  
13 right after graduating from Yazoo City High School in 2000. Once  
14 he finished basic training with the Army Reserve, he decided to  
15 enlist as a full-time soldier; and

16 WHEREAS, Yazoo City High School Principal John Wallace  
17 remembers Ellis as a dependable student and a good person. "He  
18 was well liked by everyone here. He was just a good kid"; and

19 WHEREAS, carried by an Army Honor Guard, he was buried with  
20 full military honors in Valdosta, Georgia, during which he was  
21 posthumously awarded the Purple Heart; and

22 WHEREAS, Sergeant Ellis was a dedicated soldier and devoted  
23 family man. While serving in Iraq, Ellis regularly kept in touch  
24 with his family and had spoken to his mother just hours before the  
25 incident in which he lost his life. In addition to his  
26 grandmother, Sergeant Ellis is survived by his wife, Ulrica Ellis,  
27 and child, Ja'Niayah Ellis, of Valdosta, Georgia; his mother,

28 Tonya Ellis; his father, James Darren Conley; and three siblings;  
29 and

30 WHEREAS, since operations began in Iraq and Afghanistan, at  
31 least 44 soldiers or sailors with Mississippi ties have died in  
32 action; and

33 WHEREAS, James Ellis was a loving father who is counted among  
34 America's heroes, committed to our nation's safety and security.  
35 To a country, a fallen soldier means a national loss; to a  
36 community, a fallen soldier means a true hero; to a parent, a  
37 fallen soldier means a son who won't be coming home.  
38 Mississippians understand the costs of conflict, because we have  
39 paid them in the past, and it is with great pride and humility  
40 that we recognize the heroic action of this great American and  
41 Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization as we know it  
42 today:

43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
45 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of  
46 United States Army Staff Sergeant James Ellis of Yazoo City,  
47 Mississippi, who was killed in action in Iraq on Tuesday, October  
48 3, 2006, and extend our thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to  
49 his family and our sorrow on his passing.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
51 the surviving family of Staff Sergeant Ellis and be made available  
52 to the Capitol Press Corps.