

By: Senator(s) Tollison

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 585

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO SALUTE AND HONOR THE MEMORY OF THE  
2 FIVE AGENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI BUREAU OF NARCOTICS WHO HAVE LOST  
3 THEIR LIVES IN THE LINE OF DUTY SINCE THE FIRST AGENTS WERE SWORN  
4 INTO SERVICE IN 1971.

5 WHEREAS, with due respect and reverence, we salute and honor  
6 the five Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics agents who lost their  
7 lives in the line of duty since the first agents were sworn into  
8 service in 1971; and

9 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN), created  
10 by the Legislature in 1971, has the duty to provide the citizens  
11 of Mississippi with a frontline defense against the abuse and  
12 misuse of controlled substances; and

13 WHEREAS, the MBN is comprised of a dedicated cadre of support  
14 personnel, agents and intelligence analysts and includes a staff  
15 of approximately 200 employees strategically located throughout  
16 the state; and

17 WHEREAS, as the state's primary drug enforcement agency, the  
18 MBN accomplishes its mission by confiscating drugs and other  
19 contraband and by arresting suspected drug violators for  
20 prosecution, which often necessitates dangerous and  
21 life-threatening situations for the agents. The following five  
22 agents have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty:

23 • Agent Harold Lane Caldwell began his career with the  
24 Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics on February 1, 1977, and was  
25 assigned as an agent to the Tupelo District. On September 14,  
26 1979, Agent Caldwell was assisting an Alcorn County Sheriff's  
27 Department Deputy on a call involving a kidnapping. Lane and the  
28 deputy attempted to arrest the subject and Lane was shot and

29 killed during the arrest. The kidnapping victim was rescued as a  
30 result of the valor displayed by Agent Caldwell. Lane became the  
31 first agent of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics killed in the  
32 line of duty. His sacrifice will never be forgotten. Each year,  
33 the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics honors Lane with an award  
34 bearing his name. The H. Lane Caldwell Award for Valor is  
35 presented to MBN agents or other employees with MBN who  
36 demonstrate exceptional heroism and valor either in or out of the  
37 line of duty. Lane was laid to rest at the Pleasant Hills  
38 Cemetery in Kossuth, Alcorn County, Mississippi;

39 • Agent Robert Henry McLeod was hired as an agent with the  
40 Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics on October 15, 1988. Hank was  
41 assigned to the Starkville District Office and began a career as a  
42 State Narcotics Officer. He was described as an aggressive,  
43 determined agent with the highest potential of advancement in law  
44 enforcement of anyone in the agency. On September 23, 1989, Hank  
45 was returning home to Columbus after working late in Winston  
46 County. His vehicle left the road and crashed, ending Hank's  
47 life. Hank was laid to rest at the Louisville Memorial Park in  
48 Winston County, Mississippi;

49 • Agent Spencer Glenn Beckley, Sr., became an agent with  
50 the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics on February 1, 1986, and was  
51 assigned to the undercover team in Jackson. Spencer traveled  
52 across the state working undercover and developed a reputation as  
53 one of the best undercover agents in the history of the agency.  
54 On December 23, 1989, while returning from duty in Jackson,  
55 Spencer was killed in a car accident in Calhoun County. Spencer  
56 was laid to rest at the Branch Chapel Church Cemetery in  
57 Pittsboro, Calhoun County, Mississippi;

58 • Agent Marc Lee Whatley was hired by the Mississippi Bureau  
59 of Narcotics on October 1, 1996. He began his career as a State  
60 Narcotics Officer assigned to the Meridian District Office.  
61 Marc's devotion to duty exemplified what a State Narcotics Officer

62 should strive to become. On August 20, 1998, while conducting a  
63 narcotics investigation, Agent Marc Whatley was killed in a  
64 traffic accident in Bay Springs, Mississippi. Marc was laid to  
65 rest at Oak Hill Cemetery in Laurel, Mississippi;

66 • Agent Kimbrough "Kim" Sterling began his career with the  
67 Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics on December 8, 1992, assigned to  
68 the McComb District Office. Kim was later tasked as statewide  
69 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Coordinator for  
70 MBN. On March 23, 2003, at age 49, Kim suffered a massive heart  
71 attack which led to a vehicle accident in Amite County. Each year  
72 the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics honors Kim with an award  
73 bearing his name. The *Kimbrough Sterling Award for Special*  
74 *Contract Agents* is presented to an MBN Special Contract Agent who  
75 demonstrates exceptional dedication and professionalism. Agent  
76 Kim Sterling was laid to rest March 26, 2003, at Mt. Pleasant  
77 Cemetery in Gloster, Amite County, Mississippi; and

78 WHEREAS, the MBN strives to make our state a better and safer  
79 place to live, where our children are safe to walk the streets.  
80 It is an honor to recognize the service of these fallen agents and  
81 the sacrifices of their surviving families; and

82 WHEREAS, Agent Harold Lane Caldwell, Agent Robert Henry  
83 McLeod, Agent Spencer Glenn Beckley, Sr., Agent Marc Lee Whatley  
84 and Agent Kimbrough "Kim" Sterling, Lest We Forget:

85 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
86 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
87 with due respect and reverence, we do hereby salute and honor the  
88 memory of the five agents of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics  
89 who have lost their lives in the line of duty since the inception  
90 of the agency in 1971, and express to the surviving family of  
91 these fallen agents the thanks of a grateful state for their  
92 service.

93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented by  
94 the Director of the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics to the

95 surviving families of the agents of the MBN who have lost their  
96 lives in the line of duty at appropriate annual ceremonies held  
97 for that purpose, and be made available to the Capitol Press  
98 Corps.