

By: Senator(s) Tollison, Albritton, Burton, Butler, Carmichael, Chaney, Chassaniol, Dawkins, Fillingane, Frazier, Gollott, Horhn, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Kirby, Lee (35th), Little, Mettetal, Michel, Nunnelee, Pickering, Posey, Simmons, Thomas, Walley, Walls, White, Wilemon

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.