

By: Senator(s) Lee (47th),
Albritton

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 501

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES ARMY STAFF SERGEANT JERRY
3 CLARK BURGE, JR., OF PICAYUNE, MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS KILLED IN
4 ACTION IN IRAQ ON APRIL 4, 2007, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF
5 THE LEGISLATURE.

6 WHEREAS, United States Army Staff Sergeant Jerry Clark Burge,
7 Jr., 39 of Picayune, Mississippi, was killed in action, along with
8 another soldier, when a roadside bomb detonated near their Humvee
9 vehicle in Taji, Iraq, on April 4, 2007; and

10 WHEREAS, he was a Demolitions Expert and Engineer with the
11 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st
12 Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas; and

13 WHEREAS, Sergeant Burge joined the military in 1985 and began
14 serving full-time active duty in 1995. He had spent eight of his
15 11 years overseas; and

16 WHEREAS, Sergeant Burge had been injured earlier by an
17 explosive while serving in Kosovo; and

18 WHEREAS, the father of three children, he was on his second
19 tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. Fellow soldiers said,
20 "Burge made sure his men were doing their duties to the best of
21 their abilities for the good of all"; and

22 WHEREAS, his family was given five medals awarded to him
23 posthumously at the military funeral held in Picayune,
24 Mississippi, on Thursday, April 12, 2007, including a Bronze Star,
25 a third Purple Heart, a third Army Commendation Medal, a Global
26 War on Terrorism Medal and an Expeditionary Global War on
27 Terrorism Medal; and

28 WHEREAS, Sergeant Burge is the second soldier from Picayune
29 (a town of about 10,800) to die in Iraq. They are among at least
30 53 soldiers and sailors with strong Mississippi ties who have been
31 killed in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

32 WHEREAS, the men who served with him said Staff Sergeant
33 Jerry Burge was a soldier like few others. He had served on
34 dangerous missions long before the Iraq war began and knew what it
35 took to protect his men from harm. He took the extra steps to
36 make sure everyone in his command was on the mark all the time;
37 and

38 WHEREAS, Jerry Burge was a loving father who is counted among
39 America's heroes, committed to our nation's safety and security.
40 To a country, a fallen soldier means a national loss; to a
41 community, a fallen soldier means a true hero; to a parent, a
42 fallen soldier means a son who won't be coming home.
43 Mississippians understand the costs of conflict because we have
44 paid them in the past, and it is with great pride and humility
45 that we recognize the heroic action of this great American and
46 Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization as we know it
47 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 Staff Sergeant Jerry Clark Burge, Jr., of
52 Picayune, Mississippi, who was killed in action in Iraq on April
53 4, 2007, and extend the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to
54 his family and our sorrow on his passing.

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