

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND MILITARY
2 CAREER OF DECORATED WORLD WAR II VETERAN GENERAL EMMETT H.
3 "MICKEY" WALKER, JR., AND EXPRESSING THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY OF THE
4 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS
5 PASSING.

6 WHEREAS, retired General Emmett H. "Mickey" Walker, Jr., of
7 Jackson, Mississippi, a decorated World War II veteran who later
8 served as Chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C.,
9 during the Reagan administration, died Wednesday, December 12,
10 2007, at age 83; and

11 WHEREAS, General Walker, born in the Abbott Community of Clay
12 County, Mississippi, on March 16, 1924, to Mae Stanley Walker and
13 Emmett Hudson Walker, Sr., spent 42 years in uniform during a
14 military career that took him from foreign battlefields to
15 Washington, D.C., having begun his military career December 15,
16 1942, in the Enlisted Reserve Corps; and

17 WHEREAS, commissioned as a second lieutenant by the Infantry
18 Officer Candidate School in May 1944, his first assignment as an
19 officer was with the 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division, Camp
20 Gruber, Oklahoma, and shortly thereafter was ordered overseas and
21 assigned to the 95th Infantry Division in Northern France; and

22 WHEREAS, as a Platoon Leader, Cannon Company, 378th Infantry,
23 during World War II, General Walker braved enemy fire during the
24 Battle of Metz in France, the Siegfried Line, the Battle of the
25 Bulge and the Rhineland Campaign; and

26 WHEREAS, it was during this time of combat that he was
27 offered an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point,
28 but declined, feeling that his country and men were better served



29 by his remaining with them in battle, a decision that proved to be
30 of great importance nine days later in an action for which he
31 earned the Silver Star for gallantry beyond the call of duty and
32 again on April 14, 1945, when he earned the Bronze Star for valor;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, after returning to the United States, Walker climbed
35 the military ranks and was Assistant Adjutant General for the
36 Mississippi National Guard from 1972 to 1976; and

37 WHEREAS, as Chief of the National Guard Bureau under
38 President Reagan from 1982 to 1986, General Walker worked closely
39 with his friend, the late Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery,
40 in crafting and lobbying passage of the 1984 Montgomery GI Bill,
41 which increased educational and other benefits for soldiers and
42 gave a needed recruiting boost to the all-voluntary military; and

43 WHEREAS, Major General Harold A. Cross, Mississippi's
44 Adjutant General, said in an e-mail from Iraq that Walker "was a
45 true champion for the National Guard and dedicated his life to
46 serving the State of Mississippi and the nation. He was a
47 soldier's soldier in every respect. He meant a great deal to all
48 of us and will be dearly missed by every soldier and airman in the
49 Mississippi National Guard"; and

50 WHEREAS, after retiring, the Jackson resident was promoted to
51 full General by the State of Mississippi and turned his energy
52 toward preserving history, serving as the driving force in
53 establishing the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby
54 near Hattiesburg, Mississippi, which was later dedicated in his
55 honor; and

56 WHEREAS, General Walker was quoted in a 2005 interview with
57 *The Associated Press* that it was "important to preserve history so
58 that future generations never forget the sacrifices and struggles
59 that shaped Mississippi, the United States and the rest of the
60 world"; and



61 WHEREAS, General Walker was just one of more than 100,000
62 soldiers who trained at the sprawling 136,000-acre Camp Shelby
63 base during World War II, and the nearly 50,000 soldiers that have
64 trained there since 2004 for missions in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

65 WHEREAS, General Walker remained active after his retirement,
66 serving as President of the Agriculture Museum's Board of
67 Directors and offering advice to those in state government; and

68 WHEREAS, lauded with decorations and commendations including,
69 but not limited to: the Department of Defense Distinguished
70 Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal, Air Force
71 Distinguished Service Medal, National Guard Bureau Distinguished
72 Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit (two awards), Bronze
73 Star (two awards and "V" Device), Meritorious Service Medal, Army
74 Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and named in
75 his honor, the LTG Emmett H. Walker, Jr., Mississippi Army
76 National Guard Complex and the Jackson Chapter of the Military
77 Order of World Wars; and

78 WHEREAS, General Walker, whose wife, Elizabeth "Tuta" Walker,
79 passed away in November 2006, is survived by daughters: Ann
80 Walker Sansbury, Wyeth Walker Curtis and Kathryn Walker Senseman;
81 son, John Stanley Walker; twelve grandchildren; five
82 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends;
83 and

84 WHEREAS, General Mickey Walker was a general officer of great
85 rank and prestige, but he was charismatic with all soldiers and
86 Mississippians, and it is with sadness that we note the passing of
87 this citizen-soldier whose career has had a lasting effect on our
88 nation and the State of Mississippi:

89 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
90 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
91 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life and 42-year military
92 career of decorated World War II veteran, Retired Lieutenant
93 General Emmett H. "Mickey" Walker, Jr., of Jackson, Mississippi,



94 and extend deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his
95 passing.

96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
97 furnished to the family of General Walker, the Mississippi
98 Adjutant General and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

