

By: Senator(s) Gandy

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 513

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 MOURNING THE LOSS OF UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE MASTER SERGEANT
3 COATER B. DEBOSE OF STATE LINE, MISSISSIPPI, FROM INJURIES
4 SUSTAINED IN ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN ON AUGUST 19, 2012.

5 WHEREAS, Army Reserve Master Sergeant Coater B Debose, 55, of
6 State Line, Mississippi, was fatally wounded Sunday, August 19,
7 2012, in Spin Boldak, Afghanistan from small arms fire while
8 conducting security force assistance operations. The shooting
9 occurred when two Afghan policemen reportedly opened fire on a
10 group of coalition and Afghan troops. A Mississippi father and
11 grandfather, Sergeant Debose is the second Mississippian to die by
12 "insider attack" in Afghanistan and the 32nd of the United States
13 and coalition forces; and

14 WHEREAS, Sergeant Debose, a communication sergeant, was
15 assigned to the 2nd of the 351st Infantry Regiment, 158th Infantry
16 Brigade, First Army Division East. He deployed in April 2012 to
17 assist and train Afghan uniformed police in and around Kandahar;
18 and



19 WHEREAS, Debose joined the Alabama Army National Guard in May
20 1983. He transferred to the Army Reserves in 2008. A veteran of
21 Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2004-2005, Debose is also one of the
22 older United States soldiers killed in Afghanistan. "He was 55
23 years old and one of the most fit soldiers we had, just a great,
24 physically fit example for our younger soldiers," said Colonel
25 Chris Forbes, Debose's commanding officer. "They all looked up to
26 him, and he was never afraid to go out of his way and mentor them.
27 He was a super soldier. He was a father who loved his family and
28 was probably one of the hardest working, most dedicated soldiers
29 we had"; and

30 WHEREAS, carried by an Army Honor Guard, he returned to the
31 family and state he loved and was buried with full military honors
32 Tuesday, September 6, 2012, in Biloxi National Cemetery. Sergeant
33 Debose was promoted posthumously to Master Sergeant. As relatives
34 sat beside his casket, they were presented with five American
35 flags, along with his Purple Heart, Bronze Star and other awarded
36 medals. A military Memorial Service for Master Sergeant Debose
37 was held Friday, September 7 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training
38 Center near Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and

39 WHEREAS, Sergeant Debose is survived by his wife, Juanita;
40 and children, Latravis Debose of Moss Point, Caronica Jackson of
41 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Christopher Debose of Parris Island,
42 South Carolina, Nekeshia Raybon of Wright Patterson Air Force Base
43 Dayton, Ohio, and Broderick Debose of Petal, Mississippi; and



44 WHEREAS, since operations began in the War on Terrorism in
45 Iraq and Afghanistan, at least 80 soldiers with Mississippi ties
46 have died in action. Coater was a loving husband and father who
47 is counted among America's heroes committed to our nation's safety
48 and security. To a country, a fallen soldier means a national
49 loss; to a community, a fallen soldier means a true hero; to a
50 parent or wife, a fallen soldier means a son or husband who won't
51 be coming home. Mississippians understand the cost of conflict,
52 because we have paid them in the past; and it is with great pride
53 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great
54 American and Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization
55 as we know it today:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby remember the gallant service and mourn the loss of
59 United States Army Reserve Master Sergeant Coater B. Debose of
60 State Line, Mississippi, from injuries sustained in action in
61 Afghanistan on August 19, 2012, and extend our thoughts and
62 prayers to his family in honor of their sacrifice and our sorrow
63 on his passing.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
65 Sergeant Debose's family and made available to the Capitol Press
66 Corps.

