

By: Representative Steverson

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 21

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE
2 LIFE, LEGACY AND SERVICE OF MR. JOHN LELAND MAUNEY AND EXPRESSING
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, "To everything there is a season, and a time to
5 every purpose under the Heaven," and as such, the grand architect
6 of the universe, the immaculate author and finisher of our soul's
7 destiny, has summoned the mortal presence of dearly beloved, Mr.
8 John Leland Mauney, to eternal rest, as he has made life's final
9 transition from earthly travailing to heavenly reward, rendering
10 great sorrow and loss to his family and friends; and

11 WHEREAS, the City of Ripley lost a wonderful friend, devoted
12 Christian, patriot and community icon on Wednesday, January 13,
13 2016, with the passing of Mr. Mauney, a selfless imparter of life
14 and light who was born on January 3, 1925, in Tippah County to his
15 late parents, Joseph Roy "J.R." and Rosalee Bentley Mauney; and

16 WHEREAS, from his humble beginnings at Spout Springs
17 Elementary School, Leland went on to graduate from Centre District



18 High School in 1942 under the leadership of Principal Guy Powell,
19 a man Leland thought highly of throughout his life; and

20 WHEREAS, in the year 1943, Mr. Mauney reached the draft
21 eligible age of 18, and when he received his draft card in the
22 mail, he immediately answered the call of the United States to
23 serve his country; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Mauney trained at Fort Walton, Texas, enduring
25 six weeks of basic training to become an infantryman before he was
26 deployed from Staten Island on a Liberty Ship, becoming one of
27 thousands of replacement soldiers on the troop ship; and

28 WHEREAS, the journey across the Atlantic was a shockingly new
29 experience for this young 18-year-old from Mississippi, Leland's
30 ship was protected by a convoy of 15 to 20 ships with destroyers
31 and battleships and he suffered from seasickness throughout the
32 trip; and

33 WHEREAS, deployed to the European Theatre to confront the
34 fanatical regime of the Axis Powers, Mr. Mauney's troop stayed
35 behind at first, but was called up to the front lines in Italy
36 just behind the Battle of Anzio Beach, to view a terrifying scene
37 of a land covered with dead farm animals as the soldiers prepared
38 to invade Southern France as a part of the 36th Infantry; and

39 WHEREAS, Mr. Mauney suffered a devastating injury 42 days
40 after he landed in Southern France when an exploding shell knocked
41 him down, and without losing consciousness, he was aware that he
42 could no longer feel his right arm; and



43 WHEREAS, a medic known only as "Smithy" covered Leland with
44 his own body and sent him to a tent hospital, where he was patched
45 up, placed in another Liberty Ship and sent to Oliver General
46 Hospital in Georgia; and

47 WHEREAS, Mr. Mauney lost part of his right arm and underwent
48 more than 17 operations on that arm throughout the 1940s, and for
49 this incredible bravery and sacrifice, he was awarded the Purple
50 Heart; and

51 WHEREAS, before he was discharged in 1947, Mr. Mauney fought
52 with tremendous valor, serving in the infantry as a scout, he
53 earned a Silver Star in September of 1944 for destroying an enemy
54 machine gun position that was delaying Company A's advancement,
55 fearlessly exposing himself to hostile fire; and

56 WHEREAS, a war hero by any definition, Mr. Mauney
57 additionally earned the Bronze Medal before returning home to
58 Ripley, Mississippi, where, as fate would have it, he married the
59 love of his life, Geneva Moffitt, and devoted his next 38 years to
60 the United States Postal Service; and

61 WHEREAS, a man of extraordinary faith and dedication to God
62 his Father, Leland was an active member of Ripley Presbyterian
63 Church where he served as deacon, elder and president of his
64 Sunday School class; and

65 WHEREAS, devoted to his community, Leland was an avid
66 athlete, playing golf and basketball and was a longtime booster of
67 Ripley High School sports, and he additionally served as the



68 treasurer of the Civitan Club and maintained membership in many
69 other Veterans organizations; and

70 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite
71 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now
72 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,
73 including his parents; his brother, Wayne Mauney; his sister,
74 Kathleen Mauney Jones, the legacy of Mr. Mauney will continue to
75 refresh the hearts and fond memories of his beloved survivors:
76 his devoted wife, Geneva Moffitt Mauney; two daughters, Marcia
77 Mauney Eaton and Connie Mauney Jeanes; one son, John Leland
78 Mauney, Jr.; six grandchildren, Laura, Mallory, Scott, Rosalie,
79 Lee and Brittany; three great-grandchildren, Tyler, Sam and Mark;
80 and a host of other relatives and friends; and

81 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend the
82 life of a remarkable community servant, loving family man and
83 patriot such as Mr. Mauney, whose life's light was an impassioned
84 beacon of inspiration to all as he imparted his life's light of
85 wisdom into the lives of all he encountered along this earthly
86 sojourn:

87 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
88 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
89 THEREIN, That we do hereby mourn the loss, commemorate the life
90 and legacy of Mr. John Leland Mauney, and express sincere sympathy
91 to his family and friends upon his passing; and



92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
93 furnished to the family of Mr. John Leland Mauney and to the
94 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

