

By: Senator(s) Massey, Blackwell,  
Fillingane, Norwood, Parker, Jackson (11th),  
Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 521

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE  
2 MEMBERS AND INSTRUCTORS OF THE LAKE CORMORANT HIGH SCHOOL MARINE  
3 CORPS JUNIOR ROTC (JROTC) FOR WINNING THE MISSISSIPPI ALL SERVICES  
4 JROTC STATE DRILL CHAMPIONSHIP AT KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE.

5 WHEREAS, members of the Lake Cormorant High School Marine  
6 Corps Junior ROTC (JROTC) have put other units around Mississippi  
7 on notice. These cadets are among the elite groups in the state  
8 and others will have to gauge their level of skill and ability  
9 against what they have accomplished; and

10 WHEREAS, the Lake Cormorant Unit with Lieutenant Colonel  
11 Gregg Johnston and Sergeant Major Tom Herman as Instructors, has  
12 returned from the Mississippi All-Services JROTC Drill  
13 Championship held at Keesler Air Force Base near Biloxi,  
14 Mississippi, with a State Title. The unit won the State  
15 Championship in Armed Exhibition and finished Fifth Overall out of  
16 87 units across the State of Mississippi, representing all  
17 branches of the Armed Services. A total of 18 units took part in  
18 the state event and Lake Cormorant had qualified after finishing  
19 second in a regional qualifying event; and



20           WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Herman said the State Championship is  
21 quite an accomplishment for a JROTC Unit that is relatively new.  
22 "We were only one of two Marine schools that were there out of 17  
23 other schools," Herman said. "To be able to walk away with a  
24 State Championship in Armed Exhibition in only our second full  
25 year in existence is unheard of in the ROTC world." Armed  
26 Exhibition involves marching in close quarters and then displaying  
27 skill in precision handling of a rifle, including tossing and  
28 twirling their weapons back and forth between cadets. The unit  
29 must also display a cohesive skill set in their performance, Armed  
30 Exhibition allows some creativity in movement but there are  
31 specific items the judges observe; and

32           WHEREAS, success comes after a lengthy bit of time getting  
33 the drill down correctly, according to Unit Commander Cadet  
34 Captain Zoe Cox. Cadet Sergeant Cody Lopez, a sophomore, said it  
35 was a great feeling of accomplishment when it was learned the Lake  
36 Cormorant Unit had claimed the Championship. Cadet Gunnery  
37 Sergeant Ian Schnatterly, a junior, added the lessons learned will  
38 continue to be used in the future. Both Lopez and Schnatterly  
39 said they are looking at continuing involvement in the military  
40 after high school graduation, either through a service academy or  
41 an ROTC unit on a college campus; and

42           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we join the members and  
43 instructors of this elite unit who have brought honor to their  
44 school, their community and to the State of Mississippi:



45           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
46 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
47 we do hereby commend and congratulate the members and instructors  
48 of the Lake Cormorant High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC  
49 (JROTC), and extend the best wishes of the Legislature to the  
50 JROTC and their instructors and parents on this high honor.

51           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
52 the Lake Cormorant JROTC Drill Team and Instructors and Lake  
53 Cormorant Principal, Mrs. Rhonda Guice, forwarded to the DeSoto  
54 County Board of Education, and made available to the Capitol Press  
55 Corps.

