

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 98

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COURAGE AND BRAVERY OF MR.  
2 BRADFORD C. FREEMAN AND COMMENDING HIS VALIANT SERVICE DURING  
3 WORLD WAR II ON BEHALF OF THIS GREAT NATION.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Bradford C. Freeman distinguished himself as a  
5 fearless soldier during World War II in the 506th Parachute  
6 Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Company E of the United  
7 States Army, when he nobly put his life on the line to protect the  
8 freedoms of all Americans and rescue Western Europe from Nazi  
9 control; and

10 WHEREAS, the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st  
11 Airborne Company E, or Easy Company, was made famous by the HBO  
12 mini-series *Band of Brothers*, which was executive produced by Tom  
13 Hanks and Steven Spielberg, and Mr. Freeman was present for every  
14 fight, battle and victory, including the D-Day and Normandy  
15 landings, Operation Market Garden, Rhineland Campaign, Ardennes  
16 Alsace Campaign, Central Europe Campaign (1945)/Operation Plunder  
17 and Central Europe Campaign (1945)/Victory in Europe Day; and



18           WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman parachuted into German occupied France  
19 on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, with his company, Easy  
20 Company, and in a lethal shower of gunfire upon the shores of  
21 Omaha Beach, they took out a strategic 105mm Howitzers, and  
22 continued to capture several strategic German points, after which  
23 they led an assault of the French town of Carentan; and

24           WHEREAS, after intense fighting from June 9 through June 14,  
25 1944, the Allied forces relieved the town from the tight,  
26 insufferable grip of its Nazi foe and pushed back the German  
27 counter attack, and the company returned to Aldebourne, England,  
28 to replace the men who sacrificed everything for freedom during  
29 the D-Day campaign; and

30           WHEREAS, the company fought on, training for their next  
31 assault on Holland known as Operation Market Garden, and on  
32 September 17, 1944, Easy Company made their jump into Holland with  
33 154 total men, and with little resistance, the airborne armada  
34 placed the company on target, foreboding difficult times just  
35 beyond the horizon for Mr. Freeman and his comrades; and

36           WHEREAS, for nearly ten days, Easy Company fought not only  
37 for their own lives but for the lives of other paratroopers that  
38 were just up the road from them, but the company successfully  
39 seized the objectives and kept the road open; unfortunately,  
40 however, the paratroopers were surrounded and had little firepower  
41 to combat the enemy, a deadly combination that left only 132 men



42 to stand for the red, white and blue at the end of Operation  
43 Market Garden; and

44 WHEREAS, from October 2 through November 25, 1944, the  
45 company held a steadfast defensive line in an area in Holland  
46 known as "The Island," while the 506th, Easy Company's parent  
47 unit, occupied a gap in the British lines that had been previously  
48 held by a British division that was roughly four times the size of  
49 the regiment, and the Easy Company had only 130 men to hold a  
50 sector that was three kilometers long; and

51 WHEREAS, of the 130 men who had trekked to The Island, only  
52 98 remained on November 25, 1944, when the company was pulled off  
53 the line and sent to France for a much deserved break, and after  
54 only a 2-week R and R break, Mr. Freeman and the Easy Company were  
55 alert, mobilized and "truck lifted" into the vicinity of the small  
56 Belgian town of Bastogne; and

57 WHEREAS, on December 17, 1944, with minimal winter clothing  
58 during one of the harshest winters in European history and scarce  
59 ammunition and supplies deep behind enemy lines, Mr. Freeman and  
60 company moved into battle again, establishing a defensive ring  
61 around the town and defensive positions in the woods east of  
62 Bastogne-Foy Road while the 506th was in the northeast quadrant of  
63 the ring; and

64 WHEREAS, the next 12 days proved to be some of the  
65 excruciatingly bitter, most grueling fighting in the history of  
66 the United States Army, with the freezing cold temperatures



67 causing as much death and destruction as the Germans, and on  
68 December 22, 1944, the Germans offered to accept the surrender of  
69 the Easy Company, but General McAuliffe, in an intrepid display of  
70 bravery, replied to the Germans with the famous, morale-boosting,  
71 rally cry of "Nuts"; and

72 WHEREAS, the 101st stood tall and resolute against the  
73 Germans, and on December 26, 1944, Patton's 3rd Army broke through  
74 to the "battered bastards of Bastogne," to offer relief and  
75 resupply to the Easy Company whose past 12 days had been anything  
76 but easy; and

77 WHEREAS, despite the relief offered, the Easy Company, who  
78 had come to Bastogne with 121 men but left with less than 100 on  
79 New Year's Day 1945, was immediately placed on the offensive, and  
80 for the first two weeks of January 1945, the company fought to  
81 regain ground around Bastogne, and by the middle of January, the  
82 506th was moved to divisional reserves; and

83 WHEREAS, from January 18 until February 23, 1945, Mr. Freeman  
84 and his Easy Company comrades were placed into the lines in the  
85 town of Hagenau, and from there, they experienced the bombardments  
86 of a fanatical hostile foe followed by small arms exchanges that  
87 typify urban combat; and

88 WHEREAS, the 506th PIR was pulled off the line on February  
89 25, 1945, and moved to Mourmelon, France, where, for the first  
90 time since December 17, 1944, they were allowed to shower,  
91 cleansing themselves of the dirt, grime and blood that had caked



92 their bodies for the past two months; they were served hot meals;  
93 and they could sleep in cots as opposed to the frozen tundra that  
94 had tormented them and left their nights restless; and

95 WHEREAS, while the Easy Company was in Mourmelon, General  
96 Dwight D. Eisenhower personally awarded the 101st Airborne  
97 Division the Presidential Distinguished Unit Citation, the first  
98 time in Army history the award had been given to an entire  
99 division, for their sacrifice and bravery and continuing the fight  
100 for freedom in the face of immense struggle, hardship, unbearable  
101 cold, destruction and death; and

102 WHEREAS, during April 1945, the Easy Company occupied parts  
103 of Germany, remaining there until V-E Day in May 1945, and while  
104 in Germany, the company had the privilege of securing Hitler's  
105 Eagles Nest outside of Berchtesgarden, the final war time  
106 achievement for the accomplished Easy Company, as the post war was  
107 looming; and

108 WHEREAS, when Easy Company stormed Omaha Beach and entered  
109 World War II on June 6, 1944, 140 men permeated its ranks, but by  
110 the end of the war, the company was destitute, as 48 of those men,  
111 who served in the Easy Company throughout the war, had perished,  
112 paying the ultimate sacrifice for liberty and justice for all, and  
113 more than 100 men in the company had been wounded, some more than  
114 once, but while their battle cry was "Currahee!" which means  
115 "Stands Alone," not one man in the Easy Company stood alone, they  
116 stood together as one; and



117           WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman's unceasing gallantry and indomitable  
118 valor during the war earned him some of the most prestigious and  
119 esteemed awards a fearless combatant can receive, including the  
120 American Campaign Medal, the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart  
121 with one oak leaf cluster (2 awards), the Army Presidential Unit  
122 Citation with one bronze oak leaf cluster (2 awards), the  
123 Europe/African/Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Silver Star  
124 and an Arrowhead Device (6 awards), the French Croix De Guerre  
125 Medal, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Army Good Conduct  
126 Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Belgium Croix De Guerre  
127 Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, the Netherlands Bronze Lion  
128 Medal, the Parachutist Badge with two Bronze Stars (2 combat  
129 jumps), the Combat Infantry Badge and the Rifle, Auto-Rifle and  
130 Bayonet Device; and

131           WHEREAS, Mr. Bradford C. Freeman's unflinching courage and  
132 bravery reflect lasting glory upon himself and uphold the noble  
133 traditions of the infantry and the military service; and

134           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
135 honor heroic Mississippians such as Mr. Bradford C. Freeman for  
136 his dauntless fortitude and his remarkable dedication to the  
137 United States of America and the people of the State of  
138 Mississippi, who are eternally appreciative, for without Mr.  
139 Freeman, the freedom they know and love would not be possible:

140           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
141 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby



142 recognize the courage and bravery of Mr. Bradford C. Freeman and  
143 commend his valiant service during World War II on behalf of this  
144 great nation.

145 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
146 furnished to Mr. Bradford C. Freeman and to the members of the  
147 Capitol Press Corps.

