

By: Representatives Blackmon, Haney

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 80

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE VALIANT SERVICE AND
2 MOURNING THE LOSS OF UNITED STATES NAVY COMMANDER JOSEPH ALLEN
3 LACOUR, JR., UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To
5 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under
6 the Heaven," and as such, on February 23, 2018, the immaculate
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
8 presence of dearly beloved, United States Navy Commander Joseph
9 Allen LaCour, Jr., to eternal rest, rendering great sorrow and
10 loss to his family and friends; and

11 WHEREAS, born on March 7, 1924, in Memphis, Tennessee, to
12 Joseph Allen LaCour, Sr., and Gladys Anderson LaCour, Commander
13 LaCour graduated from Canton High School in Canton, Mississippi,
14 on June 2, 1942, and he was sworn into the V5 Flight Training
15 Program the very next day; and

16 WHEREAS, after negotiating three basic flight training
17 schools, Commander LaCour was selected for advanced flight
18 training at Pensacola NAS and then he was selected for Squadron



19 4-Fighter flight training, and on September 10, 1943, he became
20 Aviator #P-5998, and he served as an instructor pilot before
21 serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters, flying the
22 F4F-5 Super Wildcat, F6F Hellcat, F8F Bearcat, F4U Corsair, as
23 well as other various aircraft; and

24 WHEREAS, Commander LaCour served aboard the USS Corregidor,
25 CVE 58, an escort aircraft carrier in the Pacific, which was
26 primarily used to support the other larger Essex, Hornet and
27 Yorktown class carriers with replacement planes and pilots in the
28 Pacific; and

29 WHEREAS, after his service, Commander LaCour returned to
30 Canton, and he attended Millsaps College, playing on the football
31 team and earning his bachelor's degree in history, and he
32 furthered his education by attending the National Hardwood Lumber
33 Association's Inspection School in Memphis, Tennessee; and

34 WHEREAS, Commander LaCour returned to Canton again in 1949,
35 and he married Helen O'Bannon and joined his father in forming
36 J.A. LaCour & Company, which engages in the international business
37 of importing and exporting hardwoods, and with this business, he
38 had the opportunity to travel the globe, visiting numerous
39 continents and regions, such as Europe, the Far East, Africa, the
40 Near East, South America, Central America and North America, and
41 he continued to be actively involved in the company until his
42 passing; and



43 WHEREAS, being devoted to his country, Commander LaCour
44 continued in the active naval reserves in a variety of surface and
45 air assignments, and he commanded the Air Wing 82 intelligence
46 group comprised of 35 intelligence officers from 1968 until 1971,
47 and in 1984 he retired from the United States Navy at the
48 mandatory age of 60 with the permanent rank of Commander, but he
49 elected to remain on the officer recall list for life and has been
50 on that list for 76 years; and

51 WHEREAS, not only was Commander LaCour dedicated to serving
52 his country, he was also tremendously devoted to serving his
53 community and his church as former president of Canton Country
54 Club and as former president of the Canton Academy School Board,
55 and serving several terms on the Vestry of Grace Episcopal Church
56 and serving as Madison County Election Commissioner, and he was a
57 member of numerous organizations, such as the National Hardwood
58 Lumber Association, the Southwestern Lumberman's Club, the Memphis
59 Lumberman's Club and the International Trade Club of Mississippi,
60 and he was a passionate advocate for the Boy Scouts of America,
61 where he earned the rank of Eagle Scout, which is the highest rank
62 achievable in the Boy Scouts; and

63 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to now
64 stand upon the golden heavenly shores, the legacy of Commander
65 Joseph Allen LaCour, Jr.'s selfless service and commitment to his
66 family, his state and to the United States will forever be etched
67 in the hearts and memories of his loving survivors: his wife of



68 68 years, Helen O'Bannon LaCour; his children, Irving Allen
69 LaCour, David Holt LaCour and Janet LaCour Snow; and his numerous
70 grandchildren and great-grandchildren who loved him dearly; and

71 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
72 outstanding Americans such as United States Navy Commander Joseph
73 Allen LaCour, Jr., whose steadfast commitment to his family and
74 unwavering dedication to this great nation has brought great honor
75 to his family, the State of Mississippi and to the United States
76 of America:

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
78 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
79 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the valiant service and mourn
80 the loss of United States Navy Commander Joseph Allen LaCour, Jr.,
81 upon his passing, and express deepest sympathy to his family and
82 friends.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
84 furnished to the family of United States Navy Commander Joseph
85 Allen LaCour, Jr., and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

