

By: Senator(s) Butler, Barnett, Caughman,  
DeBar, McMahan, Seymour

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 53

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED AND HONORABLE  
2 SERVICE OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN AND PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT MR.  
3 A.C. MCKENZIE, SR., OF EDWARDS, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. A.C. McKenzie, Sr., is a Purple Heart recipient  
5 who served bravely and honorably during World War II by laying his  
6 life on the line daily to protect this great nation and its  
7 citizens; and

8 WHEREAS, a native of Raymond, Mississippi, a young A.C.  
9 McKenzie was born December 7, 1924, to the late Mr. Rueben  
10 McKenzie and Mrs. Edith Green McKenzie, with 12 siblings; and

11 WHEREAS, his parents and family raised A.C. to value  
12 education and to live as a man of valor with support from Midway  
13 and Mount Moriah schools, and his spiritual foundation was  
14 solidified at Little Zion Missionary Baptist Church, where he  
15 still remains a devout member as well as a faithful Deacon; and

16 WHEREAS, at the tender age of 12, a young A.C. was forced to  
17 quickly mature when his mother passed away and he realized his  
18 father needed assistance with his younger siblings, so A.C.



19 stepped up to help his father care for his younger siblings until  
20 he left home at the age of 18 to protect and serve our country;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, after taking the oath of the United States Army on  
23 October 20, 1943, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, Mr. McKenzie  
24 completed basic training and was subsequently transferred to Fort  
25 Devens, Massachusetts, for 30 consecutive days of maneuver  
26 training before being dispatched from Fort Bragg, North Carolina,  
27 on July 1, 1944, with the 438th Quartermaster Gas Supply Company  
28 and arrived in France two weeks later; and

29 WHEREAS, during actual combat from September 1944 to May  
30 1945, Mr. McKenzie's company was attacked during a routine  
31 operation on the Ramagen Bridge and a bomb struck the artillery  
32 truck he was driving and killed several members of his squadron  
33 and injured countless others. A.C. was unaware of the ensuing  
34 events of the attack until he awakened at the Army General  
35 Hospital in Germany, and was informed that he was knocked  
36 unconscious by the forceful impact of the explosion and endured a  
37 severe wound when struck by the bomb's flying shrapnel; and

38 WHEREAS, he remained in Germany in the hospital until July  
39 1946, when he was honorably discharged as a Buck Sergeant from  
40 military service as a result of his injury and returned to Fort  
41 Bragg on August 2, 1946, a decorated war veteran who had advanced  
42 three ranks during his two years of active duty action; and



43 WHEREAS, upon returning home, Mr. McKenzie once again helped  
44 his father with his siblings and on the family farm; and

45 WHEREAS, soon after his return, Mr. McKenzie met the love of  
46 his life, Edna Ruth Stokes, and the couple married on November 22,  
47 1947, and they journeyed on to build a lifetime of memories to be  
48 shared with the fruitful addition of 13 children. Mrs. McKenzie  
49 passed away and joined the company of angels in 1994; and

50 WHEREAS, after many of his children reached adulthood, Mr.  
51 McKenzie began working with Anderson Tully and later with  
52 International Paper Company before assuming employment with People  
53 and Green Construction Company, where he earned an apprenticeship  
54 in concrete finishing, and also worked on the Interstate 20  
55 highway project from Jackson to Louisiana; and

56 WHEREAS, at 90-plus years of age, this war hero, father,  
57 grandfather and great-grandfather still maintains a vibrant and  
58 active lifestyle gardening and tending to his livestock, but most  
59 importantly cherishing the moments shared with his children,  
60 grandchildren, siblings and friends; and

61 WHEREAS, Mr. McKenzie's legacy is a strong and free America,  
62 and for this and for a lifetime of selfless service to his family,  
63 community and nation, a grateful state thanks him:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
65 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize the distinguished and  
66 selfless service of World War II Veteran and Purple Heart  
67 recipient, Mr. A.C. McKenzie, Sr., of Edwards, Mississippi, and



68 thank him for his bravery and service to the United States of  
69 America.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
71 presented to Mr. A.C. McKenzie, Sr., and his family, and made  
72 available to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

