

By: Senator(s) DeBar, Barnett, Jackson
(11th), Seymour

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30

1 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE
2 FOUNDING OF HOWELL-GRANTHAM AMERICAN LEGION POST 53 IN LUCEDALE,
3 MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, we join veterans and the citizens of George County,
5 Mississippi, in honoring our veterans on the occasion of the
6 Centennial Anniversary of the founding of Howell-Grantham American
7 Legion Post 53 in Lucedale, Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, the American Legion was formed in Paris, France,
9 during an organizational meeting of a thousand officers and
10 enlisted men from all branches of the United States Armed Services
11 on March 15, 1919. The Paris Caucus was ratified in St. Louis,
12 Missouri, in May 1919. The purpose of the American Legion was to
13 provide services to veterans and veterans' families, including
14 lobbying the government for veterans benefits. These efforts led
15 to the creation of today's Veterans Administration in 1920; and

16 WHEREAS, World War I veterans returning home from the "war to
17 end all wars" had survived the horrors of living in trenches
18 through all weather conditions, brutal machine gunfire, disease,



19 dysentery, boredom, fatigue and the nightmares of watching
20 compatriots sustain horrific wounds and succumb to bloody deaths;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the American Legion is organized with national,
23 state and local units. Locally, the membership is organized into
24 "Posts"; and

25 WHEREAS, the American Legion spread quickly across the
26 country, giving World War I veterans a place to meet, share
27 experiences and help readjust to civilian life. One such Post was
28 chartered in Lucedale, Mississippi, in March 1921. It was named
29 in honor of James Howell Grantham, a Marine Medic who was killed
30 in action on November 1, 1918, only 10 days before Armistice Day;
31 and

32 WHEREAS, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, begun on September 26,
33 1918, and ending on November 11, 1918, was the largest United
34 States military operation up until that time, involving 1.2
35 million American soldiers. During those 47 days it became the
36 second-deadliest battle in American history, with 350,000
37 casualties and 26,277 Americans killed. James Howell Grantham,
38 only 20 years old, was tending to the wounded on that battlefield
39 when he was killed. For his meritorious service, he was
40 posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, second only to the Medal of
41 Honor; and

42 WHEREAS, today there are 95 members, with 85 who are active,
43 according to Post Commander Kimble Cochran. The current



membership is keeping this same spirit of service alive with their programs and service to veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, "We are a small Post in a small town," added First Vice Commander Buddy Horn. What Post 53 can do is send high school students to Boys State and Girls State. Starting with one student in 2010, the Post now sends 20 to 25 deserving students to the week-long educational experience each year; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government institution for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935. American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State. Student expenses are paid by Post 53 with the help of local business and community-based organizations. Another program is the annual Poppy Days, where poppies are handed out commemorating those who have died. Donations are collected into a special fund just for the benefit of veterans in need or their families. Poppies are handed out on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, each Memorial Day, Legion members put small American flags on the graves of deceased veterans. This past year, Post 53 put flags on more than 1,400 graves in 126 area cemeteries. The flags remain on the graves for one week; and



68 WHEREAS, seven years ago, Post 53 began a Veterans Day
69 parade. It has been well received and has become a major
70 community event; and

71 WHEREAS, the legacy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the
72 United States is a strong and free American and for this a
73 grateful state joins the Centennial Anniversary Celebration of
74 these veterans and thanks them for their service:

75 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
76 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commemorate the Centennial
77 Anniversary of the founding of Howell-Grantham American Legion
78 Post 53 in Lucedale, Mississippi, and extend the thanks of a
79 grateful state to these veterans on this auspicious occasion.

80 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
81 Post 53 VFW at appropriate ceremonies, forwarded to the Board of
82 Supervisors of George County, Mississippi, and made available to
83 the Capitol Press Corps.

