

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Barnett, Butler
(38th), Caughman, Hopson, Horhn, Jackson,
McCaughn, Seymour

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LEGACY OF MARINE GUNNERY SERGEANT
2 ZACHARY TAYLOR OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, A MONTFORD POINT MARINE,
3 ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY.

4 WHEREAS, during Black History Month, we recognize
5 Mississippians who have made great strides in changing the path in
6 America. Veteran Gunnery Sergeant Zachary Taylor, 100 years of
7 age on February 12, 2023, became a Marine during a time when black
8 and white Marines were still segregated; and

9 WHEREAS, calling on his duty to serve his country, Taylor was
10 one of many black Marines who served during World War II as
11 Montford Point Marines, after President Franklin Roosevelt issued
12 an Executive Order establishing the Fair Employment Practices
13 Commission in June 1941. Because the Marine Corps was the last
14 military branch to be integrated, black service members trained at
15 Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina, from August 1942
16 until the camp was decommissioned in September 1949. The largest
17 number of black Marines to serve was at the seizure of Okinawa,



18 with 2,000 seeing action. During World War II, more than 19,000
19 black Marines served in the Marine Corps; and

20 WHEREAS, after graduating Holy Ghost Catholic School, Taylor
21 went on to graduate from Eastern Illinois University. He then
22 joined the Air Force, becoming a Pharmacist. The father of six
23 then worked at the Jackson V.A. as a Pharmacist until retirement.
24 Now the veteran spends his days resting, enjoying life with his
25 children, and keeping his mind sharp. "I've had 99 years of
26 partying all over the world," said the military veteran of the
27 Greatest Generation. Longevity runs in the Taylor family. His
28 mother passed away at 99; and

29 WHEREAS, the National Montford Point Marine Association was
30 established in 1975 to honor African Americans who served in the
31 Marine Corps; and

32 WHEREAS, Naval Air Station Meridian hosted the Montford Point
33 Association for a ceremony to honor Sergeant Taylor with the
34 Congressional Gold Medal. He was honorably discharged as a
35 Sergeant; and

36 WHEREAS, Gunnery Sergeant Taylor is a true American hero.
37 Like all the other Montford Point Marines, he was a trailblazer
38 who dared to be a Marine during a time when African Americans were
39 excluded from the Marines. The story of the Montford Point
40 Marines is a story of resilience and perseverance. Those Marines
41 should not be forgotten, and everyone should honor their



42 sacrifice, and for this a grateful state thanks him for a life of
43 selfless service and a legacy of a strong and free America:

44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
45 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby honor the legacy of Marine Gunnery
46 Sergeant Zachary Taylor of Jackson, Mississippi, a Montford Point
47 Marine, extend the best wishes of the Senate on his 100th
48 Birthday, and extend to Mr. Taylor and his family the thanks of a
49 grateful state.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
51 Sergeant Taylor, forwarded to the National Montford Point Marine
52 Association, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

