

By: Senator(s) Johnson, Robinson,
Fillingane, Polk, DeBar, England

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 532

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS SERGEANT HAROLD
3 HAMMETT WHO WAS LOST IN ACTION ON NOVEMBER 20, 1943, AT THE BATTLE
4 OF TARAWA IN WORLD WAR II AND WHOSE REMAINS WERE RETURNED FOR
5 BURIAL IN MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE
6 LEGISLATURE.

7 WHEREAS, a Mississippi Marine lost in World War II will have
8 a final resting place more than 80 years after his death; and

9 WHEREAS, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency reported the
10 remains of 24-year-old Marine Corps Sergeant Harold Hammett of
11 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, have been accounted for and will be
12 returned to Mississippi for burial. He was buried with full
13 military honors on January 26, 2024, on what would have been his
14 105th birthday, at Roseland Park Cemetery following a graveside
15 service; and

16 WHEREAS, Sergeant Hammett was the fifth of eight children
17 born to Emry Holmes "E.H." Hammett and Eva Jane Sharp Hammett. He
18 graduated with Petal Consolidated High School's class of 1939 and
19 was a member of the Carterville Baptist Church; and



20 WHEREAS, Sergeant Hammett enlisted in the Marine Corps on
21 August 1, 1940, in San Francisco, California, then was sent to the
22 South Pacific in July 1942. He was in the Battle on Tulagi and in
23 several major battles on Guadalcanal, DPAA reported. After being
24 wounded, he was hospitalized in New Zealand, where he awaited
25 orders for his next mission; and

26 WHEREAS, Sergeant Hammett was in Bravo Company, 1st Battalion
27 of the 2nd Marines (B-1/2) when the team landed on Betio as part
28 of Operation: GALVANIC. The mission of the 2nd Marine Division
29 was to secure the island to control the Japanese airstrip in the
30 Tarawa Atoll with the goal of preventing the Japanese Imperial
31 forces from getting closer to the United States; and

32 WHEREAS, the move also would enable U.S. Forces to get closer
33 to mainland Japan. It would become one of the bloodiest battles
34 in Marine Corps history, according to the DPAA, on November 20,
35 1943, also known as D-Day for the Battle of Tarawa; and

36 WHEREAS, Sergeant Hammett was killed in action on that day.
37 His body was believed to be buried on Betio Island by survivors of
38 the battle. His remains were only recently recovered. Without a
39 body to bury, Sergeant Hammett's family erected a memorial marker
40 next to where his parents also were buried, DPAA said in a news
41 release; and

42 WHEREAS, the Patriot Guard Riders escorted Sergeant Hammett's
43 remains from the funeral home to the cemetery, followed by the
44 graveside service, including full military honors; and



45 WHEREAS, Sergeant Hammett was awarded the Purple Heart and
46 Presidential Unit Citation for his service; and

47 WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Sergeant Hammett's
48 survivors included his seven siblings, including brother, PFC Emry
49 H. Hammett, Jr., who was stationed with the Marines in Honolulu,
50 Hawaii, at the time, and his grandparents: R.L. "Rufus" Sharp and
51 Mrs. Annie Edmonson Sharp, and L.D. "Dad" Hammett; and

52 WHEREAS, Sergeant Harold Hammett was a loving son who is
53 counted among America's heroes, committed to our nation's safety
54 and security. To a country, a fallen soldier means a national
55 loss; to a community, a fallen soldier means a true hero; to a
56 parent, a fallen soldier means a son who won't be coming home.
57 Mississippians understand the costs of conflict, because we have
58 paid them in the past, and it is with great pride and humility
59 that we recognize the heroic action of this great World War II
60 American and Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization
61 as we know it today:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
64 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
65 United States Marine Corps Sergeant Harold Hammett who was lost in
66 action on November 20, 1943, at the Battle of Tarawa in World War
67 II and whose remains were returned for burial in Mississippi, and
68 extend the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to his family
69 and our sorrow on his passing.



70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
71 the surviving family of Sergeant Harold Hammett and made available
72 to the Capitol Press Corps.

