

By: Senator(s) Lee

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 63

1 A RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE OF PRIVATE FIRST
2 CLASS JACK LUCAS, THE YOUNGEST UNITED STATES MARINE TO BE AWARDED
3 THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR.

4 WHEREAS, 59 years ago in the sands of Iwo Jima, Private First
5 Class Jack Lucas taught and learned the lessons of citizenship;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, on February 20, 1945, on the Volcano Islands in Iwo
8 Jima, he and three of his buddies encountered the enemy and two
9 grenades at their feet; he threw himself on both of them, and in
10 that moment he saved the lives of his companions and miraculously
11 in the next instant a medic saved his life; and

12 WHEREAS, this action gained a foothold for freedom, and at
13 the age of 17, PFC Jack Lucas became the youngest United States
14 Marine in history and the youngest soldier in over a century to
15 become a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

16 WHEREAS, Jacklyn Harold Lucas was born on February 14, 1928,
17 in Plymouth, North Carolina, and entered service at Norfolk,
18 Virginia, at a very young age; he served with the 1st Battalion,
19 26th Marines, 5th Marine Division; and

20 WHEREAS, his Congressional Medal of Honor citation reads as
21 follows:

22 For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the
23 risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty
24 while serving with the 1st Battalion, 26th Marines,
25 5th Marine Division, during action against enemy
26 Japanese forces on Iwo Jima, Volcano Islands, 20
27 February 1945. While creeping through a treacherous,
28 twisting ravine which ran in close proximity to a
29 fluid and uncertain frontline on D-plus-1 day, Pfc.
30 Lucas and 3 other men were suddenly ambushed by a
31 hostile patrol which savagely attacked with rifle
32 fire and grenades. Quick to act when the lives of
33 the small group were endangered by 2 grenades which



34 landed directly in front of them, Pfc. Lucas
35 unhesitatingly hurled himself over his comrades upon
36 1 grenade and pulled the other under him, absorbing
37 the whole blasting forces of the explosions in his
38 own body in order to shield his companions from the
39 concussion and murderous flying fragments. By his
40 inspiring action and valiant spirit of self-sacrifice,
41 he not only protected his comrades from certain
42 injury or possible death but also enabled them to
43 rout the Japanese patrol and continue the advance.
44 His exceptionally courageous initiative and loyalty
45 reflect the highest credit upon Pfc. Lucas and the
46 U.S. Naval Service.

47 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict
48 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride
49 that we show our support for the Armed Forces of the United States
50 by recognizing the heroic action of this great American, who was
51 the guardian of civilization as we know it today:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
53 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby remember the gallant service of
54 Private First Class Jack Lucas, the youngest Marine and the
55 youngest soldier in over a century to be awarded the Congressional
56 Medal of Honor, as we support our troops in the impending Middle
57 East conflict.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
59 Jack Lucas at appropriate ceremonies on Thursday, March 20, 2003,
60 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

