

By: Senator(s) Lee, Blackmon, Browning, Burton, Canon, Carmichael, Chamberlin, Chaney, Cuevas, Dawkins, Dearing, Dickerson, Farris, Frazier, Furniss, Gollott, Hamilton, Harden, Harvey, Jackson, Johnson (19th), Jordan, King, Kirby, Little, Mettetal, Michel, Minor, Moffatt, Nunnelee, Posey, Robertson, Ross, Scoper, Simmons, Smith, Stogner, Thames, Tollison, Walden, Walls, White, Williamson, Carlton

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.

