

By: Senator(s) Butler

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 546

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF BLACK HAWK HELICOPTER CREW CHIEF JEREMIAH
3 DIGIOVANNI OF MCCOMB, MISSISSIPPI, THE 9TH MISSISSIPPI COMBAT
4 CASUALTY IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

5 WHEREAS, Specialist Jeremiah DiGiovanni, 21, died in a
6 helicopter crash in Iraq on November 15th, 2004, while serving in
7 Mosul. He was one of two Mississippi soldiers who died in the
8 crash. Nine Mississippians have died thus far in Operation Iraqi
9 Freedom; and

10 WHEREAS, he was a Black Hawk Helicopter Crew Chief to A
11 Company, 4th Battalion, 101st Airborne Division based at Fort
12 Campbell, Kentucky. He had been in Iraq since February 2003; and

13 WHEREAS, at a memorial service held inside Calvary Baptist
14 Church in Pricedale, Mississippi, portraits and photo collages of
15 the fallen soldier adorned the altar, along with a folded American
16 flag. About 250 people, including family and friends, military
17 and local government officials and reporters, packed the church;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, a military service with full honors took place on
20 the church grounds. Jeremiah's commanding officer, Captain John
21 Butora, described him as a model soldier with a good work ethic
22 and a generous heart. "It's just a sad loss," he said. "A young
23 soldier is taken before his time. A super generous person."
24 Butora presented Joe DiGiovanni, his father, Jeremiah's Purple
25 Heart and Bronze Star; and

26 WHEREAS, Jeremiah's grandfather, Edward DiGiovanni of
27 Mandeville, Louisiana, said his grandson died defending his

28 country. "He died doing what he wanted to do and I'm very proud
29 of him"; and

30 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict
31 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride
32 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great
33 American and Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization
34 as we know it today:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
36 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
37 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
38 Black Hawk Helicopter Crew Chief Jeremiah DiGiovanni of McComb,
39 Mississippi, who died in a helicopter crash in Iraq on November
40 15, 2003, and was the 9th Mississippi combat casualty in Iraq, and
41 extend the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to his family
42 and our sorrow on his passing.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
44 the surviving family of Specialist DiGiovanni and be forwarded to
45 Commander in Chief of the United States Armed Forces President
46 George W. Bush, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.