

By: Senator(s) Lee (47th), Albritton,
Browning, Butler, Carmichael, Chamberlin,
Chaney, Dearing, Frazier, Gollott, King,
Little, Mettetal

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 34

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING SPECIALIST ROGER "BUBBA" WALTERS OF A
2 COMPANY, 890TH ENGINEERS OF PICAYUNE, MISSISSIPPI, FOR FABRICATING
3 ARMOR-PLATED PANELS FOR THE SIDES OF MILITARY VEHICLES AND SAVING
4 AMERICAN LIVES IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM.

5 WHEREAS, SPC Roger "Bubba" Walters, Jr., is currently a
6 member of the Mississippi National Guard, A Company, 890th
7 Engineering Battalion based out of Picayune, Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, after the terrible improvised-explosive device (IED)
9 attack on a convoy of the A Company, 890th Engineering Battalion,
10 most of the unit felt as if they were easy prey to the insurgents
11 in Iraq because of the vulnerability of their vehicles and the
12 lack of body armor. They knew that another attack could come at
13 anytime and any place. This concern was widespread throughout
14 Iraq; and

15 WHEREAS, it was at this time that a Stennis Space Center
16 employee, SPC Roger "Bubba" Walters, Jr.'s many talents responded.
17 With very little materials and tools, Bubba fabricated a template
18 of panels to be attached to the sides of the vehicles. The test
19 of the first panel made from 3/8 inch steel plate proved to be
20 insufficient after being penetrated by an AK-47 round. Bubba
21 wanted to improve the plates, and he fabricated double panels from
22 a thinner metal and spaced them 1 1/2 inches apart. The panels
23 stopped the AK-47 rounds fired from 25 yards away. As a result of
24 his success, Bubba was given permission to install the
25 armor-plated panels on several vehicles; and

26 WHEREAS, these panels were so effective that the Army's 82nd
27 Airborne Division had Bubba install panels on some of their
28 unprotected vehicles. As to date, four of the 890th's vehicles

29 have been hit by an IED with no serious injuries. Bubba's
30 templates have been passed along to other units in Iraq. In
31 addition, units in the states preparing to go overseas are having
32 the panels installed on their vehicles; and

33 WHEREAS, the work of Specialist Walters has already saved
34 several lives in Iraq and will surely save more in the future.
35 Many soldiers in A Company, who travel daily on the deadly roads
36 around Fallujah consider Specialist Walters a hero; and

37 WHEREAS, the 890th will be coming home soon, but Specialist
38 Walters' accomplishments will be around for the remainder of the
39 war; and

40 WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper that we
41 recognize the contributions of this Mississippi native son and his
42 unit, the 890th Engineering Battalion, to the war effort and to
43 the safety of our soldiers, as they defend the American way of
44 life in Operation Iraqi Freedom:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
46 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Specialist Roger "Bubba"
47 Walters of A Company, 890th Engineers of the Mississippi National
48 Guard based in Picayune, Mississippi, for his huge contribution to
49 the safety of his fellow soldiers in fabricating armor-plated
50 panels for the sides of military vehicles used in Operation Iraqi
51 Freedom and for making an impact on the war against terrorism.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Mississippi Senate extends
53 to Specialist Walters and his family best wishes for the speedy
54 and safe return of this Mississippi hero.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
56 the family of Specialist Walters and be made available to the
57 Capitol Press Corps.