

By: Senator(s) Hewes, Dawkins,
Robertson, Walls, Burton

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 503

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF COLONEL
2 LAWRENCE E. ROBERTS, USAF, RETIRED, OF PASS CHRISTIAN AND BILOXI,
3 MISSISSIPPI, A DECORATED VETERAN AND MEMBER OF THE PRESTIGIOUS
4 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Colonel Lawrence E. Roberts, United States Air Force
6 (USAF), Retired, died Tuesday, October 12, 2004, in Pass
7 Christian, Mississippi, at 81 years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts had been a resident of the
9 Mississippi Gulf Coast for 35 years, living in Pass Christian and
10 Biloxi; and

11 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts attended Howard University, received
12 his Bachelor of Science Degree from Morningside College, and
13 received his Master's Degree from Tuskegee Institute; and

14 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts entered the United States Army Air
15 Corps as a Private and retired from the United States Air Force as
16 a Colonel. He was a graduate of the 44K Class of the prestigious
17 Tuskegee Airmen. His first assignment was the training program at
18 Tuskegee Army Air Field where he graduated as First Lieutenant and
19 was assigned to the 477th Medium Bombardment Group, and later the
20 332nd Fighter Wing; and

21 WHEREAS, among the 19 service medals and awards received
22 during his service career are the Legion of Merit with two Oak
23 Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the United
24 States Force Commendation Medal, the Distinguished Service Order
25 and Air Service Medal, received from the Republic of Vietnam. He
26 served in numerous flying, technical and command assignments in
27 the continental United States and Japan, Canada, Turkey and
28 Vietnam. This service included duty as a Jet Fighter Pilot in the

29 Air Defense Command and as a Flight Instructor at the fighter
30 school at Williams Air Force Base, Ground Electronics Officer in
31 Japan and Canada, Chief of Ground Communication-Electronics and
32 Meteorological Maintenance at an Air Division Headquarters,
33 Department Chief for Ground Electronics and Officer Training at
34 Keesler Air Force Base, Commander of a NATO communications
35 organization and Chief Communications-Electronics and Logistics
36 Advisor to the Vietnamese Air Force Headquarters, and Commander of
37 the Maintenance and Supply Group at Keesler Air Force Base. After
38 retirement from the United States Air Force, he worked for Global
39 Associates at the National Space Technology Laboratories; and

40 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts was extremely involved both in his
41 church and in his community; he was a former member and vice
42 moderator of the General Assembly Council, Presbyterian Church
43 (USA); former member and Chairman of Council of the Presbytery of
44 Mississippi; and an Elder, First Presbyterian Church (USA), Bay
45 St. Louis, Mississippi. Colonel Roberts' community activities
46 include being a Member of the Board of Trustees, Leadership Gulf
47 Coast; former member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees for
48 Pass Christian School District; former member and Chairman of the
49 Executive Board of the Mississippi School Boards Association;
50 former member and Chairman of the Southern Region of the School
51 Boards Association; and Director of the Genesis Foundation; and

52 WHEREAS, Colonel Roberts was preceded in death by his parents
53 and a brother. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mrs.
54 Lucimarian Tolliver Roberts of Pass Christian, Mississippi; three
55 daughters: Dorothy Roberts McEwen of Long Beach, Mississippi,
56 Sally-Ann Roberts Craft of New Orleans, Louisiana, and Robin R.
57 Roberts of New York, New York (ESPN Commentator); one son,
58 Lawrence E. Roberts II and wife Cynthia of Houston, Texas; eight
59 grandchildren; two great-granddaughters; and numerous nieces,
60 nephews and friends; and

61 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
62 decorated veteran who served his country and state in many ways,
63 whose influence will continue his legacy of strength,
64 responsibility, integrity and faith for generations, and who was
65 an American hero and man of God:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
67 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
68 we do hereby commend and celebrate the life of Colonel Lawrence E.
69 Roberts, USAF, Retired, of Pass Christian and Biloxi, Mississippi,
70 a decorated veteran, member of the prestigious Tuskegee Airmen and
71 true American hero, and express to his surviving family the
72 sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
74 the surviving family of Colonel Roberts, be forwarded to the
75 Commander of Keesler Air Force Base, and be made available to the
76 Capitol Press Corps.