

By: Senator(s) Carmichael, Burton, Browning, Clarke, Dawkins, Dearing, Frazier, Gollott, Hewes, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (15th), Jackson (11th), King, Kirby, Lee (35th), Little, Ross, Thames, White, Wilemon To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 563

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND  
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST ROBERT ALLEN MCNAIL OF MERIDIAN,  
3 MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS A COMBAT CASUALTY IN IRAQ ON FEBRUARY 11,  
4 2005, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Specialist Robert Allen McNail, 30, of Meridian,  
6 Mississippi, was killed on Friday, February 11, 2005, in a vehicle  
7 accident on combat duty in Iraq; and

8 WHEREAS, carried by a military honor guard, he came home to  
9 his family on Saturday, February 19, 2005, as flags at the  
10 Meridian Naval Air Station flew at half-staff in his honor; and

11 WHEREAS, Specialist McNail was a member of Company B, 150th  
12 Combat Engineer Battalion out of Quitman, Mississippi, which is  
13 attached to the 155th Brigade Combat Team, which includes 3,500  
14 soldiers from Mississippi and others from Vermont and Arkansas.  
15 He is the second member of the unit to die in Iraq. The 155th  
16 Brigade is comprised of soldiers from 49 communities in  
17 Mississippi; and

18 WHEREAS, he is the 22nd soldier or sailor with Mississippi  
19 ties to die in the war in Iraq; and

20 WHEREAS, Specialist McNail, a native of Meridian,  
21 Mississippi, is the sixth Mississippi National Guard soldier to  
22 give his life in Iraq and the second to die this year. He was  
23 engaged to be married and leaves behind a 3-year-old son; and

24 WHEREAS, Robert was an outgoing young man who was studying to  
25 be a nurse at Meridian Community College and worked in a civilian  
26 role at the Naval Air Station before being deployed; his brigade  
27 underwent training at Camp Shelby and left for the Middle East in  
28 January 2005; and

29           WHEREAS, Robert's last communication to his family spoke of  
30 the troops' first mortar attack and listed the 22 members of his  
31 unit in hopes that a church would adopt the unit, unselfishly  
32 putting other members ahead of himself; and

33           WHEREAS, his family has received an outpouring of grief and  
34 support from across the state, demonstrating the community  
35 acknowledgment of the sacrifice made by the Mississippi National  
36 Guard; and

37           WHEREAS, he is survived by his son, Edward Allen McNail of  
38 Quitman, Mississippi; parents, Marvin and Linda McNail of  
39 Meridian; a brother, Brian McNail and his wife, Debra, of Fort  
40 Meade, Maryland; his fiancée, Denise Potts, and her children,  
41 Daniel and Sheridan of Meridian; his grandfathers, Walter Farris  
42 Wright, and his wife, Claudie, of Yazoo City, and Edward McNail,  
43 and his wife, Elsie, of Salem, Missouri; nieces and nephews, David  
44 McNail, Calyn McNail and Carmel McNail, all of Fort Meade,  
45 Maryland; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Honorary  
46 pallbearers will be the 21 members of his platoon and Sergeant  
47 Howse stationed in Iraq; and

48           WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict  
49 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride  
50 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great  
51 American and Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization  
52 as we know it today:

53           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
54 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
55 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of  
56 Specialist Robert Allen McNail of Meridian, Mississippi, who was  
57 killed in action in Iraq on Friday, February 11, 2005, and extend  
58 the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to his family and our  
59 sorrow on his passing.

60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
61 the surviving family of Specialist McNail and be made available to  
62 *The Meridian Star* and to members of the Capitol Press Corps.