

By: Senator(s) Hewes,
Brown, Browning, Burton,
Butler, Carmichael, Chaney,
Clarke, Davis, Dearing,
Flowers, Frazier, Gollott,
Gordon, Harden, Jackson
(15th), Jackson (11th),
Jordan, King, Lee (35th),
Little, Mettetal, Michel,
Moffatt, Morgan, Pickering,
Posey, Thomas, Walley,
Walls, White, Wilemon,
Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 521

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND
2 COMMENDING THE LIFE OF SPECIALIST DANIEL VARNADO OF GULFPORT,
3 MISSISSIPPI, WHO WAS A COMBAT CASUALTY IN IRAQ ON MONDAY, MAY 23,
4 2005, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

5 WHEREAS, Specialist Daniel Varnado, 23, of Gulfport,
6 Mississippi, and a native of Saucier, Mississippi, was killed on
7 Monday, May 23, 2005, when a bomb exploded near his Humvee in
8 Haswa, 30 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq, one of four members of the
9 Mississippi-based 155th Brigade Combat Team; and

10 WHEREAS, carried by a military honor guard, he came home to
11 his community and family, and was buried Friday, June 3, 2005, at
12 Biloxi National Cemetery, Biloxi, Mississippi, with full military
13 honors; and

14 WHEREAS, the 155th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, known as
15 "Dixie Thunder", includes 3,500 soldiers from Mississippi and
16 others from Vermont and Arkansas. The 155th, which is attached to
17 the II Marine Expeditionary Force, operates in the Karbala, Najaf
18 and Babil provinces of Iraq. The soldiers trained at Camp Shelby
19 before being deployed to Iraq in January 2004. The deaths of
20 these four brave guardsmen brings the total in the 155th Brigade
21 to at least 10 in 2005. Since military operations in Afghanistan
22 and Iraq began, 32 soldiers with ties to Mississippi have died.
23 The Mississippi National Guard has sustained the fourth-highest
24 number of casualties of any state; and

25 WHEREAS, Spec. Varnado played baseball at Mississippi Gulf
26 Coast Community College before being deployed to Iraq in January,
27 2004. He had signed a letter of intent to pitch at the University

28 of West Alabama at Livingston, which was to be honored when he
29 returned from active duty. Danny had played high school baseball
30 at Harrison Central and had volunteered as an umpire for the Babe
31 Ruth league in Orange Grove. He is remembered as a down-to-earth,
32 popular guy who had a life-long dream to pitch in the major
33 leagues. He was a great leader on the "ball field and on the
34 battlefield"; and

35 WHEREAS, during his funeral, Specialist Varnado was awarded
36 the Bronze Star, the Mississippi Medal of Valor and the Purple
37 Heart posthumously by Major General Harold Cross, Adjutant General
38 of Mississippi; and

39 WHEREAS, his family received an outpouring of grief and
40 support from across the state, demonstrating the community's
41 acknowledgment of the sacrifice made by the Mississippi National
42 Guard; and

43 WHEREAS, Danny Varnado is survived by his wife, Sharon; a
44 2-year-old son, Kannon Joshua Varnado (named for the tattoo of a
45 cannon on Danny's arm because of the speed of his fastball);
46 parents, David and Joni Varnado of Saucier; brother, Dusty
47 Varnado; sister, Destini Varnado; grandparents, Delphine Varnado,
48 Gwen Stokes and Bruce Allen; and other relatives and friends; and

49 WHEREAS, to a country, a fallen soldier means a national
50 loss; to a community a fallen soldier means a true hero; to a
51 parent, a fallen soldier means a son who won't be coming home.
52 Mississippians understand the costs of conflict, because we have
53 paid them in the past, and it is with great pride and humility
54 that we recognize the heroic action of this great American and
55 Mississippian, who was the guardian of civilization as we know it
56 today:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
58 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
59 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the life of
60 Specialist Daniel (Danny) Varnado of Gulfport, Mississippi, who

61 was killed in action in Iraq on Monday, May 23, 2005, and extend
62 the thoughts and prayers of the Legislature to his family and our
63 sorrow on his passing.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
65 the surviving family of Specialist Varnado and be made available
66 to members of the Capitol Press Corps.