

By: Senator(s) Carmichael, To: Rules
Mettetal, King, Kirby,
Browning, Butler, Chaney,
Clarke, Cuevas, Dawkins,
Dearing, Flowers, Frazier,
Gollott, Harden, Hewes,
Hyde-Smith, Jackson (15th),
Jackson (11th), Jackson
(32nd), Jordan, Lee (35th),
Lee (47th), Little, Moffatt,
Morgan, Posey, Robertson,
Ross, Thames, Thomas, White,
Wilemon

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE HEROIC ACTION OF MISSISSIPPI
2 STATE GUARD CORPORAL VINCENT B. KENNEDY DURING HURRICANE KATRINA,
3 AND EXPRESSING THE CONGRATULATIONS OF THE SENATE FOR HIS RECEIPT
4 OF THE MISSISSIPPI MAGNOLIA CROSS MEDAL.

5 WHEREAS, Mississippi State Guard Corporal Vincent B. Kennedy
6 has been recommended for the Mississippi Magnolia Cross Medal by
7 his commanding officer, Brigadier General Thomas Logue; and

8 WHEREAS, Corporal Kennedy distinguished himself on August 29,
9 2005, by saving the life of Mr. Thomas Murphy, of Pascagoula,
10 Mississippi, while placing his own life in mortal peril; and

11 WHEREAS, while assigned to the 402nd Military Police
12 Battalion, Mississippi State Guard and on a military police detail
13 providing security for the Moss Point High School shelter during
14 Hurricane Katrina, Corporal Kennedy was notified that Mr. Murphy
15 had succumbed to an asthma attack and did not have his medications
16 at the shelter. After searching the shelter for any other source
17 of medication for Mr. Murphy, Corporal Kennedy took it upon
18 himself to evacuate Mr. Murphy from the shelter in hopes of
19 finding a route to the local medical center to obtain medical
20 attention. These actions occurred during the onset of hurricane
21 force winds and rising waters. Corporal Kennedy tried several
22 routes out of Moss Point until his vehicle succumbed to rising
23 waters. With his vehicle stalled in continuously rising water,
24 Corporal Kennedy and a Department of Human Services employee, who
25 had accompanied him on this mission, got Mr. Murphy out of the
26 vehicle and into a boat that was brought along side of his vehicle
27 by a civilian. The waters at this point were at Corporal

28 Kennedy's chest and rising, and despite the fact that Corporal
29 Kennedy has a lower leg amputation and wears a prosthetic device,
30 he successfully removed Mr. Murphy from the vehicle and to safety.
31 After reaching dry ground, Corporal Kennedy then checked at
32 several residences and eventually found an asthma inhaler. After
33 administering the inhaler to Mr. Murphy, the party returned by
34 another route to the shelter where Mr. Murphy was able to wait out
35 the storm prior to Medivac due to the administration of the
36 inhaler procured during the mission; and

37 WHEREAS, Corporal Kennedy continued to be an active part of
38 his units' ongoing missions despite grievous personal injury to
39 his prosthetic leg sustained during his efforts to save Mr.
40 Murphy. His selfless actions and disregard for personal safety
41 were directly related to the preservation of Mr. Murphy's life;
42 and

43 WHEREAS, it is with great pride and humility that we
44 recognize the heroic action of this great American and
45 Mississippian, who is the guardian of civilization as we know it
46 today:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
48 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the heroic action of
49 Mississippi State Guard Corporal Vincent B. Kennedy during the
50 landfall of Hurricane Katrina, and express the congratulations of
51 the Senate upon his receipt of the Mississippi Magnolia Cross
52 Medal.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
54 Corporal Vincent B. Kennedy and his family, be forwarded to
55 Brigadier General Thomas O. Logue, and be made available to the
56 Capitol Press Corps.