

By: Senator(s) Little, White, Brown,  
Browning, Bryan, Burton, Butler, Carmichael,  
Chaney, Clarke, Davis, Dawkins, Dearing,  
Doxey, Flowers, Frazier, Gordon, Harden,  
Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jackson (15th),  
Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King, Kirby, Lee  
(35th), Mettetal, Michel, Moffatt, Morgan,  
Pickering, Posey, Robertson, Thames, Thomas,  
Tollison, Wilemon, Williamson

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 552

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REMEMBERING THE GALLANT SERVICE AND  
2 COMMENDING THE DEVOTION, COURAGE AND DUTY OF THE 155TH BRIGADE  
3 COMBAT TEAM OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL GUARD FOLLOWING OPERATIONS  
4 IN IRAQ.

5 WHEREAS, the 155th Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi  
6 Army National Guard was mobilized in September 2004 representing  
7 over 3,000 soldiers from 49 communities throughout Mississippi;  
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the 155th Brigade Combat Team, which is attached to  
10 the II Marine Expeditionary Force, also had soldiers from other  
11 states: Arkansas, Vermont, Utah and the 2nd of the 11th Armored  
12 Cavalry Regiment who trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, for four  
13 months prior to its deployment to Iraq; and

14 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT arrived in Iraq in January 2005 in  
15 support of operation Iraqi freedom and served with the 1st and 2nd  
16 Marine expeditionary forces; and

17 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Brigadier General Augustus  
18 Leon Collins, the brigade performed beyond all expectations; and

19 WHEREAS, while in Iraq, the brigade conducted brigade level  
20 operations, task force level operations, raids, platoon and  
21 company joint cordon and searches, and combat missions totaling  
22 over 500; and

23 WHEREAS, the brigade conducted over 400 explosive ordinance  
24 disposal missions while in Iraq; and

25 WHEREAS, the brigade located and destroyed over 6,000 small  
26 arms; 24 machine guns; 217 rocket-propelled grenades; 295 mortar  
27 tubes; 10,000 mortar rounds; 25,000 artillery rounds; 84,000  
28 pounds of propellant; 71,000 rounds of ammunition; 55 land mines;

29 260 grenades; 109 launchers; 40 surface-to-air missiles and nearly  
30 5,000 miscellaneous weapons; and

31 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT conducted combat operations resulting  
32 in the detainment of over 1,500 suspected insurgents with almost  
33 half of these sent to Abu Gharib Prison; and

34 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT participated and facilitated three  
35 national-level free elections in Iraq to help ensure the  
36 democratic process with an 83% voter turnout in the brigade's area  
37 of operations; and

38 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT conducted numerous humanitarian  
39 projects in rebuilding schools, clinics, hospitals, police  
40 stations and critical infrastructure such as water, sewer,  
41 electrical and reconstruction; and

42 WHEREAS, due to the 155th BCT's active involvement in local  
43 communities, almost \$100 Million was committed to these  
44 humanitarian and construction projects; and

45 WHEREAS, the soldiers of the 155th BCT trained and partnered  
46 with Iraqi security forces to assist in security during these  
47 humanitarian projects; and

48 WHEREAS, the 155th BCT turned over its authority in Najaf,  
49 Karbala, North Babil and Al Anbar, Iraq, to the soldiers of the  
50 U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division on January 1, 2006, signaling an  
51 official end to a year of combat for the Mississippi soldiers; and

52 WHEREAS, during their service supporting Operation Iraqi  
53 Freedom, many received wounds while conducting combat operations,  
54 and 14 Mississippians paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom;  
55 and

56 WHEREAS, the following are the 14 Mississippi soldiers of the  
57 155th Brigade Combat Team who were killed in action in support of  
58 Operation Iraqi Freedom:

| 59 | <b>RANK/NAME</b>     | <b>AGE</b> | <b>SOLDIER'S HOMETOWN</b> | <b>DATE OF DEATH</b> |
|----|----------------------|------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 60 | MSG Sean M. Cooley   | 35         | Ocean Springs, MS         | 4-Feb-05             |
| 61 | SGT Robert A. McNail | 30         | Meridian, MS              | 11-Feb-05            |

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|    |                          |    |                   |            |
|----|--------------------------|----|-------------------|------------|
| 62 | SGT Joseph A. "Drew"     |    |                   |            |
| 63 | Rahaim                   | 22 | Laurel, MS        | 16-Feb-05  |
| 64 | SGT Timothy R. Osbey     | 29 | Magnolia, MS      | 16-Feb-05  |
| 65 | SGT Robert S. Pugh       | 25 | Meridian, MS      | 2-Mar-05   |
| 66 | SSG Tommy S. Little      | 47 | Aliceville, AL    | 2-May-05   |
| 67 | SGT Audrey D. Lunsford   | 29 | Sardis, MS        | 23-May-05  |
| 68 | SFC Saburant Parker      | 42 | Foxworth, MS      | 23-May-05  |
| 69 | SGT Daniel R. Varnado    | 23 | Saucier, MS       | 23-May-05  |
| 70 | SPC Bryan D. Barron      | 26 | Biloxi, MS        | 23-May-05  |
| 71 | SSG Larry R. Arnold, Sr. | 46 | Carriere, MS      | 11-Jun-05  |
| 72 | SGT Terrance D. Lee, Sr. | 25 | Moss Point, MS    | 11-Jun-05  |
| 73 | SSG Travis S. Cooper     | 24 | Macon, MS         | 16-Jul-05  |
| 74 | 1Lt Robert C.            |    |                   |            |
| 75 | Oneto-Sikorski           | 33 | Bay St. Louis, MS | 31-Oct-05; |

76 and

77 WHEREAS, with the return of the 155th BCT, the Mississippi  
78 National Guard now has the most combat veterans since World War  
79 II; and

80 WHEREAS, Mississippians understand the costs of conflict,  
81 because we have paid them in the past, and it is with great pride  
82 and humility that we recognize the heroic action of this great  
83 Mississippi fighting unit, which is the guardian of civilization  
84 as we know it today:

85 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
86 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
87 we do hereby remember the gallant service and commend the devotion  
88 and courage of the 155th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) of the  
89 Mississippi National Guard following their return from operations  
90 in Iraq, we extend the thanks of the Legislature to these men and  
91 women and their families for their duty to our state, our nation  
92 and to the free world and we welcome them home.

93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
94 the Commanding Officer of the 155th and to Mississippi Adjutant

95 General Harold Cross and be made available to the Capitol Press  
96 Corps.