

By: Senator(s) White

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 543

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DEDICATED MILITARY  
2 CAREER OF SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ROBERT D. THORNTON AND  
3 CONGRATULATING HIM IN HONOR OF HIS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE  
4 UNITED STATES ARMY AND THE MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD.

5 WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Robert D. Thornton retired with  
6 over 25 years of service in the Mississippi Army National Guard on  
7 October 31, 2006. Sergeant Thornton's exemplary career was  
8 honored by a retirement ceremony on August 11, 2007, attended by  
9 distinguished members of the military. Upon his retirement,  
10 Sergeant Thornton commenced service as the Physical Security  
11 Program/Budget Manager for the Mississippi Army National Guard;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, a summary of Sergeant First Class Robert D.  
14 Thornton's service is as follows: SFC Thornton enlisted in the  
15 114th Military Police Company, Clinton, Mississippi, on January  
16 23, 1981; from May 20, 1981, through September 9, 1981, he was  
17 assigned to Echo Company, 10th Battalion, One Station Unit  
18 Training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama; on September 9, 1981, he  
19 graduated from Military Police School and was reassigned to the  
20 114th Military Police Company; from September 1981 through June  
21 1984, he served in various positions to include M-60 gunner,  
22 driver and RTO for a Military Police squad; in June 1984, SFC  
23 Thornton began his AGR career with the 114th Military Police  
24 Company as the Unit Armorer/Supply Specialist; he served in this  
25 position until March 1985, when he was assigned as the Assistant  
26 Training NCO/Team Leader for 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, 114th  
27 Military Police Company; he served in this position until December  
28 1986, when he was assigned as the Unit Supply Sergeant for the

29 114th Military Police Company; in September 1990, SFC Thornton was  
30 mobilized with his unit for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm  
31 and was stationed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from November 1990  
32 through May 1991; in September 1994, SFC Thornton was assigned as  
33 Readiness NCO/Rear Battle NCO for the 114th Military Police  
34 Company; in this position, he was responsible for the day-to-day  
35 operations for the 114th Military Police Company; in December  
36 1995, SFC Thornton was mobilized with his unit for Operation Joint  
37 Endeavor and was stationed in Mannheim and Heidelberg, Germany,  
38 from December 1995 through August 1996; during this period, he was  
39 assigned as Assistant Operations NCO and was responsible for  
40 setting up the Force Protection Plan for American Soldiers and  
41 families assigned to the Mannheim/Heidelberg area; from August  
42 1996 through February 2000, SFC Thornton was once again assigned  
43 as Readiness NCO/Rear Battle NCO for the 114th Military Police  
44 Company; in February 2000, SFC Thornton was transferred to JFH-MS  
45 as a Training NCO; his primary responsibility has been to  
46 administer the budget for annual training, and to set up and  
47 ensure troops are receiving quality training in accordance with  
48 their missions; this coordination has taken SFC Thornton to  
49 various posts in the United States, Germany, Italy and Korea; and

50 WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Thornton has completed the  
51 Primary Leadership Development Course (5th Mechanical Infantry,  
52 Ft. Polk, Louisiana), the Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course  
53 (Ft. Lee, Virginia) where he was selected as Honor Graduate, and  
54 the Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course for Military Police  
55 (Ft. McClellan, Alabama); and

56 WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Thornton has served on State  
57 Active Duty on three occasions. These were in support of  
58 Hurricane Elana on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1985, the Ice  
59 Storm that hit the Mississippi Delta in 1994, and Hurricane  
60 Georges on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1999; and

61           WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Thornton was selected as the  
62 AGR Soldier of the Year for the 114th Military Police Company in  
63 1999. He competed at the next level and was selected as the AGR  
64 Soldier of the Year for the 66th Troop Command in 1999 and was  
65 subsequently selected as AGR Soldier of the Year for Mississippi,  
66 where he went on to compete at the First Army Level; and

67           WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Thornton's awards include the  
68 Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army  
69 Commendation Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement  
70 Medal with 3 oak leaf clusters, the Army Good Conduct Medal (7th  
71 Award), the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 3 oak  
72 leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest  
73 Asia Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, the Humanitarian  
74 Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Armed Forces Reserve  
75 Medal (2nd Award), the Noncommissioned Officer Professional  
76 Development Ribbon with numeral 3, the Army Service Ribbon, the  
77 Army Service Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Armed Forces  
78 Reserve Medal with M and Hour Glass Device, the Kuwait Liberation  
79 Medal (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), the Kuwait Liberation Medal  
80 (Kuwait), and the Global War on Terrorism Ribbon. His state  
81 awards include the Mississippi Magnolia Cross, the Mississippi  
82 Commendation Medal, the Mississippi War Medal, and the Mississippi  
83 Emergency Service Medal; and

84           WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Thornton holds a Bachelor of  
85 Science in Individualized Studies with a concentration in History  
86 from Charter Oak State College in Connecticut with a minor in  
87 Criminal Justice; and

88           WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class Thornton is married to the  
89 former Melanie J. Russell of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. They  
90 have three sons, Drew, Chad and Jordan, and one grand-daughter,  
91 Hannah; and

92           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the  
93 outstanding career of this professional soldier who is continuing  
94 his dedicated service to a grateful state:

95           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
96 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
97 we do hereby commend the dedicated military career of Sergeant  
98 First Class Robert D. Thornton of Clinton, Mississippi, and  
99 congratulate him in honor of his 25 years of service in the United  
100 States Army and the Mississippi Army National Guard and as he  
101 commences his state service career with the Mississippi National  
102 Guard.

103           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
104 Sergeant Thornton and his family, forwarded to the Adjutant  
105 General of the Mississippi National Guard and be made available to  
106 the Capitol Press Corps.