

By: Senator(s) White, Burton, Butler,
Carmichael, Clarke, Dearing, Fillingane,
Frazier, Hyde-Smith, Jackson (11th), Jackson
(15th), Jackson (32nd), Jordan, King,
Mettetal, Walls

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.