By: The Entire Membership To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 107

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE GALLANT SERVICE, BRAVERY AND DEDICATION OF THE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN OF TROOP B, 1-98TH CAVALRY REGIMENT OF THE 155TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE UNITED STATES AS THEY PREPARE TO BE DEPLOYED FOR A YEAR-LONG TOUR OF DUTY IN IRAQ.

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature wishes to acknowledge the many sacrifices made by the service men and women of Troop B, 1-98th Cavalry Regiment of the 155th Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi Army National Guard from Booneville, Mississippi, for their meritorious service as they make preparation to engage in the war against terrorism that is being waged by the United States both at home and overseas; and

WHEREAS, Mississippi's citizens have always been more than willing to serve their country during times of conflict across the world, as demonstrated by these valiant soldiers, and many have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in times of war; and

WHEREAS, as the 131 members of 1-98th Cavalry Regiment of the 155th Brigade Combat Team prepare to be mobilized in May 2009, they are representative of thousands of soldiers from communities throughout the state, as well as soldiers from neighboring and distant states trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, as these "citizen soldiers" of the 1-98th Cavalry Regiment, many of whom are serving a second tour, embark upon both missions to secure and preserve peace and to protect the lives and interests of all Americans, exhibiting the high caliber and readiness of our state's troops, the immeasurable debt of gratitude owed them is conveyed by Mississippi's citizenry; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Captain Kenny V. Anthony and First Sergeant Brian Belue, the 1-98th Cavalry Regiment will conduct five weeks of post-mobilization training at Camp Shelby, which consists of in-processing, common task training and theater specific instruction designed to prepare Troop B for its mission in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, while on duty spanning the course of a year, with a projected return in May 2010, the regiment, whose previous deployment experience familiarized them with the terrain, the people, the culture and the battleground, will conduct brigade level operations, task force level operations, platoon and company joint cordon and searches and combat missions; and

WHEREAS, to highlight the proficient and efficient skills of our native sons and daughters, this return to combat of the 155th Brigade Combat Team allows the Mississippi National Guard to be the foremost leader in combat veterans since World War II and constitutes the largest overseas deployment of the Mississippi National Guard since the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, unselfishly exhibiting courage under fire at every moment, the members of Troop B, 1-98th Cavalry Regiment of the 155th will work in the furtherance of numerous humanitarian projects rebuilding schools, clinics, hospitals, police stations and critical infrastructural components; and

WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, a countless number of soldiers and airmen of the Mississippi National Guard have been called to active service in defense of our nation's freedom, and the dedication of the many men and women of Troop B, 1-98th Cavalry Regiment of the 155th Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi Army National Guard in providing valuable assistance to the United States military has helped instill confidence in the general public that they have been, are and forever will be committed to this nation's security; and

WHEREAS, Governor Haley Barbour, Commander in Chief, along with Adjutant General Major General William L. Freeman, Jr., whose leadership and dedication is known throughout the military of the United States, continues to guide and command units of the Mississippi National Guard in mobilizations and deployments, and through state emergencies including hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes and security at critical sites in the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, members of Troop B, 1-98th Cavalry Regiment who make their home in Booneville are: Captain Kenneth V. Anthony; First Lieutenants, Dustin L. Johnson and Jason L. Odom; Second Lieutenant Brian K. Foley; First Sergeant Brian K. Belue; Sergeants First Class, Jeffery L. Davis, Jerry D. Gray and Robert W. Miller; Staff Sergeants, Christoper S. Barker, Michah B. Baulch, Michael P. Boyd, Matthew R. Dykes, Timothy B. Hamby, Grady E. Helton, Robert D. Holloway, John M. Irvine, Terry D. Massey, David K. Roberts and Christopher O. Stewart; Sergeants, Jorge F. Alvarado, John M. Bailey, Dennis W. Bridges, Morreo S. Brown, Joseph D. Carter, Gregory S. Dalton, Bobby D. Lambert, Robert B. McRee, Sean J. Meeks, Travis R. Miller, Robert W. Newton, Jr., and Christopher G. Parker; Specialists, Jeremy B. Armstrong, Brian M. Ballard, William K. Barnes, Christopher J. Bowling, Lonnie C. Bryant, Timothy D. Cole, Michael S. Cromeans, Wesley T. Cummings, Audie W. Davidson, John T. Heagy, David A. Herring, Terry W. Hester, Justin T. Hyde, Kelly J. Jeanes, Brandon M. Lester, Douglas W. Medine, John W. Taylor and Chad C. Walters; Privates First Class, Sean P. Baldwyn, Austin A. Bogan, Anthony A. Crawley, Christopher E. Davis, Tyler B. George, Harley D. Hall, Johnathan C. Hopper, William M. Prentiss, Zachary T. Raper, Shane M. Strickland, Corbit G. Wallace, Jeremy M. Welch, Johnny R. Westmoreland, Jr., Christopher R. Winters and George L. Winters III; and Privates 2, Devin R. Arnold, Eric C. Buse, Brent R.

Crutchfield, Jaime L. Felix, Michael P. Ligon, Keenan J. Thompson and Thomas G. Wade; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives finds it most appropriate to recognize the selflessness, commend the diligence and commemorate the valiant and heroic efforts of these outstanding Mississippi men and women for the devotion, courage and duty to their state, nation and free world to secure and insure peace and to preserve and protect freedom for all:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize and commend the gallant service, bravery and dedication of the service men and women of Troop B, 1-98th Cavalry Regiment of the 155th Brigade Combat Team of the Mississippi Army National Guard for their service to the State of Mississippi and the United States as they prepare to be deployed for a year-long tour of duty in Iraq and extend heartiest wishes for a safe, successful and expedient tour of duty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to the commanding officers of Troop B, 1-98th Cavalry Regiment of the 155th Brigade Combat Team, the Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.