

# Spann's family welcomes call for justice

By DAVID WHITE  
News staff writer

MONTGOMERY — Relatives of slain CIA agent Johnny Michael Spann, a Winfield native who died Nov. 25 in Afghanistan, thanked state senators Tuesday for urging "swift justice" against American Taliban John Walker Lindh.

"There's not much we can do here in Alabama, other than just let our president and the U.S. attorneys know that we do expect swift justice for this guy," said Spann's father, Johnny Spann, 53, of Winfield.

State lawmakers in February passed a resolution praising Spann as a "true American hero." It also called for a federal court in Virginia "to bring swift justice" to Lindh.

Mike Spann's sister, Tonya Ingram, 29, of Montgomery, said she hopes other state legislatures also will pass resolutions about Lindh.

"What I hope is that other states will follow suit, and that when his trial time comes, the judge will know the American public supports swift justice and maximum penalties," said Ms.

Ingram.

Lindh faces trial this summer on conspiracy and terrorism charges. He faces life in prison if convicted of all charges against him.

Mike Spann, 32, was interrogating captured Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners, including Lindh, in northern Afghanistan when he was killed during an uprising by prisoners.

The Legislature's resolution says, "To excuse the actions of John Walker Lindh and others who would choose treason over duty and service to country

would dishonor and invalidate the lives of true American heroes such as Mike Spann and others who have sacrificed life and limb for their country and our freedom."

Several lawmakers said they think Lindh should be executed, even though prosecutors are not seeking the death penalty against him.

"Mr. Walker needs to receive capital punishment for his deeds. He betrayed his country," said Sen. Roger Bedford, D-Russellville.