

# Senate of Alabama



MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## Resolution

PRAISING THE LIFE OF SLAIN CIA OFFICER JOHNNY MICHEAL SPANN, AND ASKING THE U.S. JUDICIAL SYSTEM TO BRING SWIFT JUSTICE TO JOHN PHILIP WALKER LINDH

By Senators Armistead, Barron, Bedford, Biddle, Butler, Callahan, Clay, Denton, Dial, Dixon, Enfinger, Escott-Russell, Figures, French, Holley, Langford, Lee, Lindsey, Lipscomb, Little (T), Little (Z), Marsh, McClain, Means, Mitchell, Mitchem, Myers, Poole, Preuit, Roberts, Sanders, Smith, Smitherman, Steele, and Waggoner

WHEREAS, CIA officer Johnny Micheal (Mike) Spann, a paramilitary trooper within the CIA's Directorate of Operations and a native of Winfield, Alabama, recently became the first United States casualty within the borders of Afghanistan since United States airstrikes on terrorist camps and forces began in retaliation to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Spann, who served his country as an artillery specialist in the Marine Corps before attaining the rank of captain and joining the CIA in 1999, was in the process of interrogating Taliban and Al-Qaida prisoners, including the American expatriate, John Philip Walker Lindh, inside a prison compound at Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan, when hundreds of prisoners stormed an armory for weapons; and

WHEREAS, in the violent melee that ensued, thousands of Northern Alliance fighters, aided by U.S. commandos and airstrikes, stormed and recaptured the compound and recovered the body of their fallen comrade, Mike Spann; and

WHEREAS, the tragic loss of Mike Spann, at such a young age and with such a bright future, leaves an undeniable void in the CIA ranks and marks the 79th CIA officer or employee killed in the line of duty since the agency's creation; Mike Spann will be memorialized by the CIA with a gold star on the wall in the lobby of the CIA's main building; and

WHEREAS, Mike Spann chose to leave the safety and comfort of his home to defend the U.S. against Al-Qaida forces, thinking in his heart that he and others could truly make a difference to America; however, John Philip Walker Lindh, formerly John Philip Walker, chose to join and actively train with the enemy forces under the adopted names of "Suleyman al-Faris" and "Abdul Hamid"; and

WHEREAS, while the decisions of John Walker Lindh are puzzling and tragic, nonetheless he voluntarily renounced the beliefs of his native United States and actively participated in war against this country, and as a consequence, he should be held legally accountable for his actions; and

WHEREAS, to excuse the actions of John Walker Lindh and others who would chose 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; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we hereby praise and honor the life of a true American hero, Johnny Micheal Spann, and extend our greatest sympathy to his family, for whom a copy of this resolution is provided.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That by copy of this resolution, we call upon the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia to bring swift justice to John Philip Walker Lindh in the criminal prosecution pending against Mr. Lindh.



I hereby certify that the above is a true, correct and accurate copy of Senate Joint Resolution No. 50, adopted by the Legislature of Alabama on February 26, 2002. Act No. 2002-111.