

**South Carolina General Assembly**  
115th Session, 2003-2004

**H. 5393**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

Concurrent Resolution

Sponsors: Reps. Scott, Allen, Altman, Anthony, Bailey, Bales, Barfield, Battle, Bingham, Bowers, Branham, Breeland, G. Brown, J. Brown, R. Brown, Cato, Ceips, Chellis, Clark, Clemmons, Clyburn, Coates, Cobb-Hunter, Coleman, Cooper, Cotty, Dantzler, Davenport, Delleney, Duncan, Edge, Emory, Freeman, Frye, Gilham, Gourdine, Govan, Hagood, Hamilton, Harrell, Harrison, Harvin, Haskins, Hayes, Herbkersman, J. Hines, M. Hines, Hinson, Hosey, Howard, Huggins, Jennings, Keegan, Kennedy, Kirsh, Koon, Leach, Lee, Limehouse, Littlejohn, Lloyd, Loftis, Lourie, Lucas, Mack, Mahaffey, Martin, McCraw, McGee, McLeod, Merrill, Miller, Moody-Lawrence, J.H. Neal, J.M. Neal, Neilson, Ott, Owens, Parks, Perry, Phillips, Pinson, E.H. Pitts, M.A. Pitts, Quinn, Rhoad, Rice, Richardson, Rivers, Rutherford, Sandifer, Scarborough, Simrill, Sinclair, Skelton, D.C. Smith, F.N. Smith, G.M. Smith, G.R. Smith, J.E. Smith, J.R. Smith, W.D. Smith, Snow, Stewart, Stille, Talley, Taylor, Thompson, Toole, Townsend, Tripp, Trotter, Umphlett, Vaughn, Viers, Walker, Weeks, Whipper, White, Whitmire, Wilkins, Witherspoon and Young

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Introduced in the House on June 1, 2004

Introduced in the Senate on June 1, 2004

Adopted by the General Assembly on June 1, 2004

Summary: Corporal Freddie Stowers

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date	Body	Action Description with journal page number
6/1/2004	House	Introduced, adopted, sent to Senate <a href="#">HJ-21</a>
6/1/2004	Senate	Introduced, adopted, returned with concurrence <a href="#">SJ-15</a>

**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[6/1/2004](#)

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## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO COMMEND THE EXTRAORDINARY HEROISM OF CORPORAL FREDDIE STOWERS AND TO HONOR HIM AS THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR FOR WORLD WAR I OR WORLD WAR II.

Whereas, born in Anderson County in 1896, Corporal Freddie Stowers grew up in the Sandy Springs community as the fourth of Wylie and Annie Stowers' ten children; and

Whereas, with a passion for education, Corporal Stowers' parents made sure that each of their children knew how to read and write even though only the youngest of their children could be spared from farm work to attend school; and

Whereas, Corporal Stowers was the beloved husband to Pearl Stowers, and together they had one daughter, Minnie Lee, before he left for the Army on October 4, 1917; and

Whereas, he was assigned to the all-black 371st Infantry Regiment, 93rd Division, National Army; and

Whereas, within two months, Corporal Stowers was promoted to private first class and by the spring of 1918, he was assigned to the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), sent to France, and promoted to corporal; and

Whereas, participating in the autumn AEF campaign in the Champagne Marne area which led to the Allied breakthrough of the German military line and German surrender six weeks later, Corporal Stowers led his squad during some of the bloodiest fighting of the war, especially for African American soldiers; and

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2 Whereas, facing incredible enemy resistance, Corporal Stowers did  
3 not hesitate to take charge and set a courageous example while  
4 putting himself in great personal danger, and he inspired his men  
5 to follow him in the attack; and

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7 Whereas, continuing to press the attack against a determined  
8 enemy, Corporal Stowers continued to move forward, even though  
9 himself mortally wounded, urging on the members of the squad  
10 until he died; and

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12 Whereas, Corporal Stowers died on September 28, 1918, and was  
13 buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France; and

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15 Whereas, soon after the war ended, Corporal Stowers was  
16 recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross and, in  
17 December 1918, his commanding officer upgraded the  
18 recommendation to the Medal of Honor although it took nearly  
19 seventy-five years for his meritorious service to be properly  
20 honored; and

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22 Whereas, in the mid-1980's, Historian Leroy Ramsey brought to  
23 light that no African American had ever received the Medal of  
24 Honor for either World War, although some had received it for the  
25 Civil War, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; and

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27 Whereas, New York Governor Mario Cuomo, New York  
28 Congressman DioGuardi, and Texas Congressman Mickey Leland  
29 took up the cause in 1987; and

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31 Whereas, despite the Pentagon's initial opposition to reviewing  
32 possible honorees, they undertook an almost three-year review  
33 which lead to the award of only one Medal of Honor which was  
34 awarded posthumously to Corporal Stowers in 1991; and

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36 Whereas, presented to Corporal Stowers' surviving family, sisters  
37 Mary Bowens of Greenville and Georgiana Palmer of Richmond,  
38 California, and great-great nephew, Army Staff Sergeant Douglas  
39 Warren, the Medal of Honor is a symbol of Freddie Stowers'  
40 service to his country and the exceptional courage he displayed in  
41 battle, and he will always be remembered for the ultimate sacrifice  
42 he made for his country; and

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1 Whereas, the South Carolina General Assembly is pleased to pause  
2 to reflect on the life and military service of Corporal Freddie  
3 Stowers who after seven decades finally received the official  
4 recognition he so richly deserves and recognizes that he served as a  
5 role model, not just for African Americans, but for all Americans.

6 Now, therefore,

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8 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate  
9 concurring:

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11 That the members of the General Assembly of the State of South  
12 Carolina, by this resolution, commend the extraordinary heroism  
13 of Corporal Freddie Stowers and honor him as the first African  
14 American to be awarded the Medal of Honor for World War I or  
15 World War II.

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17 Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to  
18 the family of Corporal Freddie Stowers.

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