

House Resolution 101

By: Representatives Belton of the 112th, Dickerson of the 113th, Rutledge of the 109th, Welch of the 110th, and Gravley of the 67th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Commending Officer Matthew Bernard Cooper; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Matthew Bernard Cooper has served with honor and distinction as an officer
3 of the Covington Police Department since March 13, 2012; and
- 4 WHEREAS, he served as a guardian of this nation's freedom and liberty with the United
5 States Army, valiantly and courageously protecting his fellow Americans in Iraq and
6 Afghanistan from 2005 to 2010; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Officer Cooper is united in love and marriage to his wife, Kristen, and they are
8 blessed with two remarkable children, Noah and Natalie; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Officer Cooper is one of only two officers from the Covington Police
10 Department that attended the United States Army International Sniper Competition in 2014,
11 2015, 2016, and 2017; and
- 12 WHEREAS, in 2015, Officer Cooper and his partner, Lieutenant Gene Nuqui, won the title
13 of Top Law Enforcement Sniper Team; in the same year, Officer Cooper entered the coveted
14 100 Club by shooting a perfect score on the annual firearms qualification; and
- 15 WHEREAS, Officer Cooper achieved a perfect shooting score again in 2016 and also earned
16 a perfect P.T. score for the annual P.T. training; and
- 17 WHEREAS, Officer Cooper's efficient and effective commitment to excellence has been
18 recognized by his peers through the many decorations and awards he has received, including
19 2013 Rookie of the Year, 2018 Officer of the Year, and 2018 Employee of the Year for the
20 patrol division; and

21 WHEREAS, on September 3, 2018, the City of Covington was shaken to its core when
22 Officer Cooper was shot in the head and severely injured; with the help of other Covington
23 police officers, Newton County sheriff's deputies, Covington firefighters, and Newton
24 County EMTs, Officer Cooper was removed from the scene and life-flighted to Atlanta
25 Medical Center, where he began fighting for his life; and

26 WHEREAS, Officer Cooper made a miraculous recovery and was released on December 19,
27 2018, to rejoin his family and friends for the Christmas holidays and he continues to improve
28 daily as an outpatient at Shepherd's Pathways; and

29 WHEREAS, Officer Cooper's story has inspired the entire community of Covington, as
30 countless people have rallied around him and his family to show love and support; and

31 WHEREAS, over 25 community-wide events and fundraisers have been held and hundreds
32 of cards, letters, and emails have come from as far away as Berlin, Germany, in support and
33 honor of Officer Cooper; and

34 WHEREAS, his inspiring commitment to the welfare of others is an outstanding example of
35 the positive effect law enforcement professionals have on the lives and well-being of others;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, it is abundantly fitting and proper that gratitude is expressed for the unique and
38 often unheralded contributions of local law enforcement professionals on behalf of the
39 citizens of this state.

40 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
41 the members of this body commend the care, courage, sympathy, and selfless dedication
42 exhibited by Officer Matthew Bernard Cooper in carrying out the difficult duties of his
43 vocation and express their utmost appreciation for having so purely and truly defined for
44 others the meaning of public servant.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
46 and directed to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to
47 Officer Matthew Bernard Cooper.