

HOUSE BILL 16

By Swafford

AN ACT to designate a segment of Interstate 40 in Cumberland County as the "Vietnam War Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, since the birth of our great nation, hundreds of thousands of brave American men and women have served their country in the United States Armed Forces, and many continue this legacy of service today, defending the most inviolate principles of human freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, our soldiers' brave service in the Vietnam War continued the time-honored tradition of Tennessee volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, thirty-five years ago, on March 29, 1973, the last 2,500 troops were withdrawn from South Vietnam, thus ending U.S. military involvement in what is still the longest war in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, due to the unpopularity of this eleven-year war, the men and women who served therein and survived, and the 58,195 brave souls who fought and died, have never been accorded the respect and gratitude they deserve for serving their country with purpose and conviction; and

WHEREAS, it is now time for all citizens, in the spirit of pride and gratitude, to recall the heroic service of the 1,293 soldiers listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall from the State of Tennessee and thank them for their unselfish devotion to duty; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Tennessee proclaimed March 29, 2008, as "Vietnam Veterans Day" in the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, the City of Crossville, which is a prime example of a welcoming and thankful community, humbly desires to pay its own tribute to our Vietnam veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council of Crossville have petitioned this Body to name a certain segment of Interstate 40 to honor those brave Tennesseans who sacrificed personal concerns and their safety while serving in the Vietnam War, with 1,293 of them giving their lives, so that we might enjoy the many bounties of democracy and the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the following segment of Interstate 40 in Cumberland County is hereby designated the "Vietnam War Memorial Highway" in honor of the many brave sons and daughters of Tennessee who served this great country in the Vietnam War:

- (a) on Interstate 40 eastbound at approximately 1500 feet in advance (west) of Exit 317 (U.S. Highway 127); and
- (b) on Interstate 40 westbound at approximately 1000 feet west of mile marker 323.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of Interstate 40 described in Section 1 as the "Vietnam War Memorial Highway".

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.