

HOUSE BILL 487

By Tidwell

AN ACT to name a segment of State Route 13 in Perry County in honor of the late Corporal David Carroll Westbrooks, United States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Corporal David Carroll Westbrooks, United States Army, who was killed in combat on November 6, 1950, while serving in Korea; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Westbrooks followed the patriotic tradition for which Perry County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, David Carroll Westbrooks was born in Perry County on October 2, 1931, and joined the United States Army in December 1948; and

WHEREAS, David Carroll Westbrooks was assigned to B Company of the 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, known as the "Wolfhounds," and was wounded in action during the Korean War on August 4, 1950; and

WHEREAS, David Carroll Westbrooks was promoted to Corporal and earned the following medals of distinction: Bronze Star with "V" Device for Valor and 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; Purple Heart with 1 Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; Army of Occupation with Japan Clasp; National Defense Service Medal; Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars; Combat Infantryman Badge; United Nations Service Medal; Expert Badge with Pistol Bar; and Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, Corporal Westbrooks did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and combat the spread of Communism; and

WHEREAS, Corporal David Carroll Westbrooks served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Westbrooks's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the Perry County Commission has petitioned this body to name a segment of State Route 13 in their county to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Corporal David Carroll Westbrooks, United States Army; 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 segment of State Route 13 in Perry County from such route's intersection with U.S. Highway 412 northward to the southern corporate limits of the City of Lobelville is hereby designated as the "Corporal David Carroll Westbrooks Memorial Highway" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Corporal David Carroll Westbrooks, United States Army.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Corporal David Carroll Westbrooks Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

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. The appellation "Corporal David Carroll Westbrooks Memorial Highway" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 6. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment or segments of any highway described in this act as the "Corporal David Carroll Westbrooks Memorial Highway".

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.