

HOUSE BILL 552

By Hazlewood

AN ACT to add Brigadier General Carl E. Levi to the name of a National Guard Armory in Chattanooga.

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the Volunteer State have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind in order to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer is Brigadier General Carl E. Levi of the Tennessee National Guard, Retired, who devoted his career to defending our great nation; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Chattanooga High School, Brigadier General Carl Levi received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Chattanooga; he later received his Certified Municipal Financial Administrator certification from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Center of Public Financial Administration; and

WHEREAS, with an unwavering sense of duty and patriotism, Brigadier General Levi enlisted in the United States Army at the rank of private in 1952 and honorably served in active duty during the Korean War; he attended Field Artillery Basic and Advance School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and was an honor graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, the U.S. Armed Forces Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He also attended the Inspector General's School at the Pentagon and the NATO Defense School in Rome, Italy; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Levi was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Artillery in 1955 as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, proudly continuing an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Levi held a number of command and staff positions at the battery, battalion, and brigade levels; he served as Inspector General and S-1 Adjutant at the state headquarters in Nashville and as comptroller for all Tennessee National Guard Units. He also served as commander of the training units at Catoosa Rifle Range and Tullahoma Training Facility; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Levi served as commander of the 196<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Brigade from 1982 until his retirement in 1987; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Levi evidenced an unswerving commitment to excellence that earned him many awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Army Commendation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Tennessee Army National Guard Distinguished Service Medal, the Tennessee National Guard Commendation Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Military Order of Saint Barbara, the U.S. National Guard Association Minute Man Award, and the Association of the U.S. Army Outstanding Student Award; and

WHEREAS, he served as Deputy Chattanooga City Court Clerk for four years, and in 1961, he became the Assistant Chattanooga City Treasurer, a position he held for sixteen years; he served as Chattanooga City Treasurer until his retirement in 2001 and was elected to serve the good people of Hamilton County as Trustee on August 1, 2002, honorably serving for two terms; and

WHEREAS, also deeply involved in his community, he is affiliated with a number of civic, veterans, and military organizations; he has served as president of the International Municipal Treasurers Association of the United States and Canada as well as the Tennessee Municipal Treasurers Association. He also served as chairman of the finance committee of the American Legion – State of Tennessee for twenty-six years and also served on the national executive

committee. He is a past state commander of the Tennessee American Legion, and he served as American Legion Post 14 Commander for twenty-five years and as vice chairman of the National Finance Commission – The American Legion of the United States for twenty-seven years. He is a registered parliamentarian and has served as president of the Tennessee Association of Parliamentarians; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Brigadier General Levi is the recipient of the 1968 Legionnaire of the Year Award and was named the 1988 Treasurer of the Year from the International Municipal Treasurers Association of the United States and Canada, the 1995 Chattanooga Veteran of the Year, and the 2008 Tennessee County Trustee of the Year; he was also recognized as a founder in 1983 by the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Levi is a proud Mason, Scottish Rite Mason, and Shriner; and

WHEREAS, he evinces his devout religious faith as a member of Brainerd Presbyterian Church, EPC; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Levi has made significant contributions to the National Guard Armory in Chattanooga that has improved troop morale and readiness. His contributions include: improving the parking areas through masterful negotiations that resulted in free crushed rock; repairing the leaking roofs of the training center and PX through adept communications with Congressional members; opening up the Armory for an open house and expo in 1986 that welcomed over 65,000 people and resulted in the recruitment of over 125 new National Guardsmen; extensive remodeling of Drill Hall to improve the Armory's ability to properly train Guardsmen; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, in Chapter 494 of the Public Acts of 2009, named the National Guard Armory in Chattanooga the CSM Bobby G. Davis National Guard Armory; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that Brigadier General Levi also be recognized in a similar fashion; and

WHEREAS, Brigadier General Carl E. Levi served with great courage and gallantry throughout his career, ever willing to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns for the enduring freedom of his country and the preservation of the ideals that forged this great nation, and he deserves proper recognition; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the CSM Bobby G. Davis National Guard Armory, located at 1801 South Holtzclaw Avenue in Chattanooga, is hereby designated the "CSM Bobby G. Davis and BG Carl E. Levi National Guard Armory" in recognition of the lives of valor of the late Command Sergeant Major Bobby G. Davis, Tennessee Army National Guard, Retired, and of Brigadier General Carl E. Levi, Tennessee Army National Guard, Retired.

SECTION 2. From existing resources, the Department of Military is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such edifice as the "CSM Bobby G. Davis and BG Carl E. Levi National Guard Armory".

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.