

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 18

By Johnson C

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Rhonda Faye Kennedy Nell, military wife and mother, for her meritorious service.

WHEREAS, it is right that the members of this General Assembly should recognize the admirable contributions and sacrifices of the spouses of soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen who have deployed and will deploy in support of contingency operations around the world; and,

WHEREAS, Rhonda Faye Kennedy Nell is one such spouse who has devotedly remained at home in the United States, supporting her husband, a career soldier, from afar as he has twice gone to war in brave service to the United States; and

WHEREAS, during this time, Mrs. Nell has faithfully cared for her two children, has performed all of the rigorous duties of maintaining a household, and has single-handedly managed a farm in her husband's absence; and,

WHEREAS, Rhonda Nell is a native and lifelong resident of Clarksville, Tennessee, the home of Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne Division; and,

WHEREAS, in December of 1990, she met her future husband, Roger E. Nell, who was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, at the Madison Street Church of Christ; and,

WHEREAS, Rhonda Nell, then Rhonda Kennedy, finished her studies at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson while dating Mr. Nell, who was deployed to Sinai, Egypt, between August of 1992 and March of 1993; and,

WHEREAS, after her soldier's return, she accepted Roger Nell's proposal, and the two were married after an eighteen-month engagement, during which Mr. Nell served in Korea; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nell admirably continued her education and graduated from the Vanderbilt University School of Nursing shortly before her marriage to Roger Nell on August 20, 1994, in Clarksville; and,

WHEREAS, following Mr. Nell during his three years on active duty, Rhonda Nell moved to Fort Stewart, Georgia, and then back to Fort Campbell, where she has remained since her husband entered reserve status in 1997; and,

WHEREAS, her husband was deployed in February of 2003 in support of the invasion and subsequent operations in Iraq, and Rhonda Nell remained home to care for her young daughter, Ashlyn, until her husband's return in February of 2004; and,

WHEREAS, Rhonda Nell's husband again answered the call to arms in February of 2008 and was deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and Mrs. Nell remained at home, honorably caring for her two young children and balancing her roles of wife, mother, and primary caretaker of several animals and the small family farm; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nell gracefully and assiduously carried out these tasks, overcoming daily hurdles and nursing her family through unexpected medical emergencies, including her daughter Ashlyn's broken hand, her son Ethan's deeply-cut thumb, and her own broken ankle; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Nell performed her duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and patriotism of an exemplary Tennessean, dedicatedly serving her family and country and carrying on the finest traditions of military wives of the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Rhonda Faye Kennedy Nell, along with all of the military spouses and families she represents, on the extraordinary support she has given her soldier and husband, her contributions to her community, her patriotism, and her sacrificial acts in service of the United States of America and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we extend to Mrs. Nell our sincerest wishes for a joyful reunion with her husband and for a peaceful future for her family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.