

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 231

By VanHuss

A RESOLUTION to designate the Barrett Model M82/M107 as the official rifle of the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize the exceptional success of Tennessee products that, through their extraordinary performance, are distinguished as world-renowned, giving credible recognition to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy product is the Barrett Model M82/M107, a rifle born from sketches hand-drawn at a dining room table by its then twenty-seven-year-old designer, who was born, raised, and educated in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the M82/M107 has been continuously manufactured in Tennessee since its inception in 1982; and

WHEREAS, the M82/M107 was the first successful .50 caliber semi-automatic rifle to be widely fielded in active military service; and

WHEREAS, in the past one hundred years, the designer of the M82/M107 is one of only four individuals who have invented rifles that were officially adopted by the United States military; and

WHEREAS, since then, the M82/M107 has been used by long-range competitive shooters and law enforcement, and has been adopted by over fifty American allied countries throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the M82/M107 pioneered an entirely new classification of rifle, changing battlefield tactics; it is recognized as the world's premier .50 caliber rifle; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, the designer of the M82/M107 received the Lieutenant Colonel George Chinn Award from the National Defense Industrial Association for excellence in support of American servicemen and servicewomen; and

WHEREAS, in March 2005, the M82/M107 was recognized, in a ceremony in Washington, D.C., by the Office of the Chief of Staff of the United States Army as one of the “top ten greatest inventions” for its service; and

WHEREAS, the M82/M107 has received numerous other accolades from the United States and foreign allied militaries, not only as a product, but for the astounding service of its manufacturer under unrealistic time constraints; and

WHEREAS, the M82/M107 is on display in many of the world’s major museums; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to recognize the M82/M107 rifle for its Tennessee heritage and its inclusion in the defense of the United States of America and its citizens, having been carried into battle in every theatre for the last twenty-five years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Barrett Model M82/M107 is hereby designated as the official rifle of the State of Tennessee.

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