

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 468

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Sergeant First Class Phillip R. Clark on being named the 2009 Soldier of the Year by the Jackson Exchange Club.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the Armed Forces of the United States; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy Tennessean is Sergeant First Class Phillip R. Clark, who was recently named the 2009 Soldier of the Year by the Jackson Exchange Club; and

WHEREAS, recently promoted to Sergeant First Class, Sergeant Clark is currently on active duty with the Tennessee Army National Guard, serving as a Pre-Mobilization Training Assistant, assigned as a Platoon Sergeant with Troop E, 1st Squadron, 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment; and

WHEREAS in addition to serving his country as a member of the Guard, Sergeant Clark is employed with the Tennessee Highway Patrol as a road Trooper assigned to Gibson County; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Clark attended Rutherford Elementary School and Rutherford Junior High School; in 1988, he graduated from Gibson County High School, and he is currently working toward his bachelors degree through Grantham University's online Criminal Justice program; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 1989, he enlisted in the United States Army, and attended Basic Training at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri; he also remained there for his Advanced Individual Training as a Twelve Foxtrot Combat Engineer Tracked Vehicle Crewman; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Clark's first active duty station was Fort Polk, Louisiana, where he served as a member of the 7th Engineer Battalion from 1989 to 1993; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, his unit was restructured as the 588th Engineer Battalion, and from 1993 to 1994 Sergeant Clark served at Fort Hood, Texas, as part of the 2nd Armored Division; and

WHEREAS, he received a permanent change of station to Camp Howze, Korea, as part of the Infantry Division assigned to the 44th Engineer Battalion; in 1995 he received another permanent change of station to Fort Leonardwood to attend the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course; and

WHEREAS, his third permanent change of station took Sergeant Clark to Fort Benning, where he became part of the 3rd Infantry Division, assigned to the 317th Engineer Battalion; and

WHEREAS, in September 1996, Sergeant Phillip Clark left the Regular Army and enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the military education and training already outlined, Sergeant Clark completed the Combat Lifesavers Course in 1991, the Primary Leadership Development Course in 1992, the Equal Opportunity Representative Course in 1994, the Automotive Logistics Specialists Course in 1999, and the Battalion Career Counselors Course and the Army Instructor Training Course in 2008, and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades over the course of his distinguished military career, Sergeant Phillip Clark has received the Army Commendation Medal twice, the Army Achievement Medal twice, the Army Good Conduct Medal twice, the Army Reserve Component Medal twice, the National Defense Service Medal twice, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon twice, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Iraqi Campaign Medal; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Clark is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Candace Clark, and together the couple have five children: Brianna Clark, Cheyenne Clark, Colten McAlister, Cadie McAlister, and Bailey McAlister; and

WHEREAS, he is also fortunate to count among his family members two loving parents, Ronald Clark and Mary Clark, his parents-in-law, Bobby and Gale Bogle, two brothers, and three sisters; and

WHEREAS, through his service as a member of the United States Army and the Tennessee Army National Guard, Sergeant Phillip Clark has come to epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Sergeant Clark for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; 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 congratulate Sergeant First Class Phillip R. Clark on being named the 2009 Soldier of the Year by the Jackson Exchange Club, thank him for his meritorious service to the State of Tennessee and the nation of which it is a part, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

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