

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 475

By McCormick

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Petty Officer 2nd Class
Randall Scott Smith, United States Navy, of
Paulding, Ohio.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly, like every American, were greatly saddened by the targeted attack upon the U.S. Naval and Marine Reserve Center and recruitment facilities in Chattanooga on July 16, 2015, and the tragic loss of life suffered; and

WHEREAS, this tragedy has touched the hearts and lives of people across the nation, but it is a deeply personal loss to those family and friends who lost a loved one, be they a spouse, parent, grandparent, sibling, son, or daughter; and

WHEREAS, the lives of one loving family were forever changed when they lost their precious husband, father, and son, Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Scott Smith of the United States Navy, who served as an active duty logistics specialist on the USS *Wasp* in Norfolk, Virginia, for three years; and

WHEREAS, upon his recent re-enlistment, Petty Officer Randall Smith was stationed at the Naval Operations Support Center in Chattanooga, where he was responsible for the training and transportation of active duty Navy personnel; in addition, he was honored to serve on special details at the Chattanooga National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Smith planned to retire from the Navy, and he was enrolled at Ashford University, where he was on the Dean's List as he pursued a degree in hospital administration; and

WHEREAS, while residing in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, Petty Officer Randall Smith and his family attended First Baptist Church of Fort Oglethorpe, where they were active Life Group members. He volunteered for many charities, including Stuff the Truck, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, cancer awareness programs, and he provided rescue assistance during Hurricane

Sandy; in addition, he assisted in coordinating Christmas events for military families and donated Easter baskets for hospitalized children; and

WHEREAS, a patriotic young man who displayed enthusiasm for every endeavor, Petty Officer Randall Smith was a surface warfare specialist, and he was awarded the Navy "E" Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, a loving husband, father, son, brother, and friend, Petty Officer Smith was deeply devoted to his family and always looked for opportunities to provide assistance to those in need; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Hiram and Catherin Smith and his mother-in-law, Renee Thomas; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Smith is survived by his loving wife of five years, Angie Smith, his three daughters, Lyla, Eila, and Kyla; his father, Tracy Smith; his mother, Paula Proxmire; and his sister, Shawna Smith; and

WHEREAS, Petty Officer Randall Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should remember the tragically short, yet courageous life of this exceptional human being and proud member of the United States Navy; 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 we honor the memory of Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Scott Smith of the United States Navy, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Petty Officer Smith.

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