

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 493

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor First Sergeant Mitchell C. Ketchens on the occasion of his retirement from teaching.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a true professional whose contributions to education and his community reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, First Sergeant (1SG) Mitchell C. Ketchens, U.S. Army (Retired), is taking a much deserved retirement from his position as an Army Instructor at Kenwood High School in Clarksville on June 30, 2017, having faithfully served the United States Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Program for more than twenty-two years, twenty-one of them spent in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System (CMCSS); and

WHEREAS, his commitment to the cadets under his tutelage has been unwavering; in recognition of his service and accomplishments, the United States Army has awarded him the Commander's Award for Public Service; and

WHEREAS, from his first day on duty, he has been a valued member of the CMCSS faculty and the district's JROTC team, and he has positively shaped the thinking and futures of hundreds of cadets through his leadership, mentoring, and coaching; and

WHEREAS, First Sergeant Ketchens began his illustrious JROTC career at Callaway County High School in Murray, Kentucky, in August 1994; after teaching one year there, he transferred to Northwest High in Clarksville; and

WHEREAS, after two years of service at Northwest, 1SG Ketchens was selected to start a new JROTC Program at Kenwood High School in Clarksville and has served as an Army Instructor there ever since, contributing significantly to the accomplishment of the Cadet Command's mission and to the success of the program; and

WHEREAS, renowned for his inspired leadership and instruction, he has coached the Kenwood JROTC Program's Drill Team, Rifle Team, JLAB Team, and Color Guard; and

WHEREAS, 1SG Ketchens's teams have competed six times at the national level, five times at the All Army level, and ten times at the regional drill team championships; and

WHEREAS, he has spent countless hours supporting the school community and participating in public service projects; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor First Sergeant Mitchell C. Ketchens, U.S. Army (Retired), for his exemplary service as an Army Instructor at Kenwood High School, salute his many contributions to the JROTC Program, and wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.

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