

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 770

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to honor Rodney Atkins for performing at "Songs For Service."

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 Americans lost their lives in heinous and cowardly attacks coordinated by terrorists; and

WHEREAS, on the nineteenth anniversary of this infamous day, September 11, 2020, country music artists are coming together to honor our first responders and veterans via "Songs For Service"; and

WHEREAS, subtitled "A Musical Tribute to Veterans and First Responders," the concert will be held at Murphy Center on the campus of Middle Tennessee State University; all proceeds will benefit the Charlie and Hazel Daniels Veterans and Military Family Center and Operation Song; and

WHEREAS, country music icon Rodney Atkins is the headliner of "Songs For Service"; fellow legend Randy Travis and many other artists will also perform; and

WHEREAS, Rodney Atkins, a gifted singer and songwriter and platinum-certified country artist, is a proud Tennessean through and through; and

WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville, Mr. Atkins attended Powell Valley High School, graduated from Walters State Community College, and attended Tennessee Technological University before moving to Nashville to pursue a recording career; and

WHEREAS, since that fateful day, Rodney Atkins has placed six number-one singles on the U.S. *Billboard* Hot Country Songs chart; his singles "If You're Going Through Hell" and "Watching You" were ranked as the top country songs of 2006 and 2007, respectively, according to *Billboard Year-End*; and

WHEREAS, he has received six nominations from the Academy of Country Music and two nominations from the Country Music Association and was named Top New Male Vocalist by the Academy; and

WHEREAS, in May 2019, Rodney Atkins's single "Caught Up in the Country" spent fifty-seven weeks on the country airplay charts, setting a record for the longest continuous run; and

WHEREAS, it is indeed refreshing to learn that a talented artist such as Mr. Atkins is also a patriot and humanitarian who strongly supports those men and women daily placing their lives on the line in service of their country and community; and

WHEREAS, our first responders and veterans have made and continue to make many sacrifices to ensure the public welfare and safety; Rodney Atkins should be commended for publicly paying tribute to these brave Americans as part of "Songs For Service"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Rodney Atkins for his role in "Songs For Service," salute his ongoing commitment to our first responders and veterans, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.