

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 793

By Marsh

A RESOLUTION to name a segment of State Route 64 in Bedford County in honor of Rear Admiral Jerry Creighton Breast, United States Navy, Retired.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor those exemplary military officers who have served this nation with courage, dedication, and ability; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than Rear Admiral Jerry Creighton Breast, United States Navy, Retired; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Breast was born and raised in Shelbyville, Tennessee, graduating from Vanderbilt University in 1958 with a NROTC commission and a degree in physics; and

WHEREAS, after completion of flight training, he was awarded his "wings of gold" and designated a naval aviator in September 1959; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Breast spent the next seventeen years in the Navy flying single-seat light attack aircraft (A-4s and A-7s) from attack aircraft carriers; on shore duty, he attended the U.S. Naval Post-graduate School, U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, the Naval War College, Catholic University, and served in test flight tours at VX-5 and Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, these tours led toward a master's degree in international politics, subspecialty in aeronautical engineering, and Rear Admiral Breast's designation as a Weapons Systems Acquisition Manager; and

WHEREAS, during the hostilities in Vietnam, Rear Admiral Breast flew 336 combat missions over North Vietnam while on three deployments between 1967 and 1973; he then

commanded the "Marauders" of Attack Squadron 82 home based at NAS Cecil Field, Florida;  
and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Rear Admiral Breast was assigned as the Operations Officer for the USS America's first tour as a CV; upon promotion to Captain, he spent fourteen months as the USS America's Executive Officer; and

WHEREAS, in 1978 and 1979, he served as program sponsor for the Navy's F/A-18 preproduction development and testing; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Breast became the Commanding Officer of the USS Savannah (AOR 4) in early 1980, and then of the aircraft carrier Independence (CV 62) in late 1981; and

WHEREAS, following command of the USS Independence, Rear Admiral Breast was promoted to Flag rank on 7 June 1983; he assumed command of the U.S. Naval Safety Center at NAS Norfolk, Virginia on 24 June 1983; and

WHEREAS, in July 1985, Rear Admiral Breast assumed command of the Carrier Group TWO, and in October 1985, he deployed to the Mediterranean, where he took command as Commander, Battle Force SIXTH Fleet on 4 November 1985; and

WHEREAS, acting as Strike Warfare Commander for the multi-carrier Battle Force, Rear Admiral Breast was responsible for all U.S. Navy strike planning and execution during operations in Libya and the Gulf of Sidra; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Breast was assigned as Director of Operations, U.S. Space Command in January 1987, and was promoted to Rear Admiral (upper half) on 1 March 1987; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1990, Rear Admiral Breast retired from active Naval service and returned to Nashville, Tennessee; in the past two decades he has held four different jobs in the business and education fields; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Breast is an elder at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville;  
and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Breast's wife of forty-seven years, Van Kirtley Breast, passed away in 2006, and he continues to raise her roses in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Rear Admiral Breast has served his country with the utmost gallantry and integrity, and he should be specially recognized; 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 the segment of State Route 64 in Bedford County from mile marker 10.8 eastward to mile marker 12.0 is hereby designated the "Rear Admiral Jerry Creighton Breast Highway" as a lasting tribute to one of the most distinguished military officers this state has ever produced.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of State Route 64 described in Section 1 as the "Rear Admiral Jerry Creighton Breast Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this resolution. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appellation "Rear Admiral Jerry Creighton Breast Highway" provided for in this resolution is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address or the governmental system

for assigning addresses in any county, municipality, or other governmental entity affected by this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.