

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 879

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Command Sergeant Major Michael Owens, Tennessee National Guard, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in recognizing those members of the United States military who, throughout their distinguished careers, served with honor, bravery, and an unswerving commitment to duty; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Command Sergeant Major Michael Owens, who, having completed an exemplary thirty-eight-year career of loyal and astute service to our nation and this State, recently took his much-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, a native of Celina, Command Sergeant Major Owens enlisted in the Tennessee National Guard as a supply specialist in 1985; after attending basic training and advanced individual training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he served eleven years in the 1,175th Quartermaster Company in Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Command Sergeant Major Owens was deployed to the Middle East for Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, where he helped establish petroleum storage facilities and transported fuel throughout Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq; and

WHEREAS, after returning to Tennessee, he remained in Lafayette, and in 1996, his unit became B Troop with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR); and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Michael Owens honorably served with the 278th ACR until 1999, when he accepted the challenge of becoming a recruiter with Tennessee's Recruiting and Retention Battalion; and

WHEREAS, after serving with distinction in numerous positions throughout the State for more than twenty years, he achieved the rank of Command Sergeant Major in 2019; and

WHEREAS, as Command Sergeant Major, he adroitly led and mentored all recruiters in Tennessee while ensuring the overall health and strength of the Tennessee National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Owens was awarded a number of military decorations and awards over the course of his illustrious career, including the Meritorious Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy in 2018 and received a bachelor's degree in business administration and management from Grantham University; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Command Sergeant Major Owens served these United States and the State of Tennessee with honor and distinction, and it is wholly fitting that we recognize him on the occasion of his retirement from military service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Command Sergeant Major Michael Owens of the Tennessee National Guard upon his retirement, as we extend our gratitude for his many years of selfless service and our best wishes for his every future happiness and 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.