

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 904

By Dunn

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Midshipman William Dean McKamey, United States Naval Academy.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of nineteen-year-old Midshipman William Dean McKamey, a brave and talented young man who lost his life playing the game he loved for an organization of which he was proud to belong; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which our nation's finest sons and daughters are renowned, Midshipman William McKamey was a gallant and honorable student at the United States Naval Academy; and

WHEREAS, a Knox County native, William Dean McKamey was born January 12, 1995, to parents Randy and Kara McKamey, the eldest of the couple's four children; and

WHEREAS, the son of a football coach, William loved the game and devoted much of his time to developing his talent as a running back; he played under the leadership of his father at Grace Christian Academy (GCA) in Knoxville, where he finished his senior year with over 2,000 combined rushing and receiving yards and twenty-two rushing and six receiving touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, William McKamey attained numerous accomplishments and awards during his high school football career, including leading the GCA Rams as their team captain, playing in Tennessee's East-West All-Star game, earning honors such as All-Region and All-State, and being named Tennessee's Division I, Class A Mr. Football in 2012; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his athletic accomplishments, Mr. McKamey graduated from Grace Christian Academy in 2013 as salutatorian of his class and received the Association of Christian Schools International Distinguished Student Award in Academics; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his hard work and talent, William McKamey garnered interest from football coaches from numerous universities, including Vanderbilt University, the University of Tennessee, and Georgetown University, and received a scholarship offer from the United States Air Force Academy before accepting the offer from the United States Naval Academy; and

WHEREAS, shortly after graduating high school, Mr. McKamey entered the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where he was a member of Third Company; he was majoring in oceanography and was a freshman slotback on the football team, earning the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy ring as a Navy football freshman; and

WHEREAS, William McKamey was known in his community as a selfless and inspiring young man whose core values centered on his Christian faith, which were reflected in his humble character; he was the son that would make any parent proud, an attentive and loving sibling to his brothers and sister, and a dedicated comrade to his Navy brethren; and

WHEREAS, this valiant American leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all of his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, William McKamey is survived by his parents, Randy and Kara McKamey, siblings, Samuel, Reagan, and Olivia McKamey, and grandparents, Johnny and Jane Grubb and Jay and Melva McKamey; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed and fondly remembered by his aunts, Sheree (Steve) Heatherly, Debbie (Tommy) Nuchols, and Lori (Rod) French, cousins, Jacob and John-Michael Feuer, Savannah Phillips, Nigel Nuchols, and Eli and Emma Stout, and special love, Elizabeth Grace Seal, along with a host of loved ones, friends, and comrades; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional human being, reflecting on his great accomplishments as an outstanding individual and patriot; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we honor the life and memory of U.S. Navy Midshipman William Dean McKamey, 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 Midshipman William Dean McKamey.

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