

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 987

By Harrison

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Officer George Copas for his heroism in the line of duty.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal concerns to ensure the public welfare, and it is fitting that this General Assembly should salute those citizens who have performed above and beyond the call of duty in service of public safety; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2013, George Copas, an officer for the Mount Carmel Police Department, performed his duties with courage while responding to a report of assault between two sisters; and

WHEREAS, upon arriving on the scene, Officer George Copas was approached by a woman pointing a revolver at his head who then returned to the house and fired the gun in close proximity to her elderly mother; and

WHEREAS, acting quickly and decisively, Officer Copas moved the mother to safety before calling for assistance from officers of Church Hill, Hawkins County, and the Hawkins County Sheriff's Office Tactical Team; and

WHEREAS, locked in a standoff for six hours, an unsuccessful attempt was made to neutralize the suspect using nonlethal force, but she retreated to a back bedroom where she fired her remaining eight shots, two of which were fired through the wall in the direction of the officers; and

WHEREAS, without drawing his weapon, Officer Copas succeeded in convincing the suspect to surrender, saving her life and her mother's life, through his calm demeanor and the steady application of his training in the midst of a life-threatening situation; and

WHEREAS, Officer George Copas performed his duties with the utmost bravery, dedication, and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; 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 hereby honor and commend Officer George Copas for his heroism in a police standoff on August 19, 2013, and offer our gratitude for a difficult job well done.

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