

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1003

By Bass

A RESOLUTION recognizing Maxey Gilleland for his many contributions to this State and nation.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to recognize those citizens of Tennessee who have dedicated their lives to creating a safer, more wholesome world though their many brave and daring efforts; and

WHEREAS, Maxey Gilleland is one such individual who, throughout a long and storied career as a soldier and a member of law enforcement, has continually put himself in harm's way in his efforts to protect the values of this State and this nation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gilleland, while attending college to earn a teaching degree, answered the call of his country and joined the Marine Corps in 1967 as a nineteen-year-old. During his months of combat in Vietnam, Mr. Gilleland suffered a number of injuries, including a gunshot wound in the arm, grievous wounds sustained after falling in a deadfall lined with sharpened bamboo stakes, and, later, two more gunshot wounds and injuries sustained when he was thrown from a helicopter; and

WHEREAS, after each injury, Maxey Gilleland, with an unwavering resolve and unshakeable bravery, returned to combat, never shrinking from the call of duty. During his term of combat, Mr. Gilleland earned numerous Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star, and the Navy Cross; and

WHEREAS, after returning home and completing his collegiate course work, Mr. Gilleland joined the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations (TBI), to which he would dedicate the next thirty-one years in an impressive career as an agent; and

WHEREAS, working for many of those years as an undercover agent, Maxey Gilleland, striving to bring to justice those who traffic and sell illegal drugs and those who pay to have others killed, participated in more than 3,000 drug buys and seventy hit man operations; and

WHEREAS, during his years as an undercover agent, Mr. Gilleland faced a number of dangers, including being involved, with a number of other agents, in a plane crash while posing as a buyer; and

WHEREAS, in one memorable moment, Maxey Gilleland, while operating undercover as a hit man, was asked to assassinate himself. When the man wanting the assassination, who apparently failed to recognize the agent, gave Mr. Gilleland a picture of himself, this inimitable agent coolly charged the man \$22,000; and

WHEREAS, Maxey Gilleland's undercover career came to a tragic halt in January of 1999 after he was shot in the head during a drug purchase that went sour. Though he survived the shooting, he lost vision in one eye. Wholly dedicated to his work, he continued to fulfill his duties with acumen and alacrity until his retirement on June 30, 2004; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this body should formally recognize someone of the caliber of Maxey Gilleland; 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 we hereby recognize Maxey Gilleland, applauding his many years of tireless service as a agent of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and as a proud member of the United States Marine Corps and extending our deepest gratitude for all he has done to improve the lives of Tennesseans.

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