

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1009

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend A Soldier's Child Foundation for its service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pay tribute to those exemplary organizations that work with purpose and conviction to honor the service of our veterans and improve the well-being of those families of veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, one such esteemed organization is A Soldier's Child (ASC) Foundation, which serves children of fallen military personnel from all U.S. military branches, those who gave their lives during active duty and those who succumbed to service-related injuries or illnesses after the conclusion of their service; and

WHEREAS, the inspiration for ASC Foundation came while Daryl Mackin, founder and executive director, was preparing for his own six-year-old son's surprise birthday party and found himself privately bemoaning the mundane tasks associated with the preparation; and

WHEREAS, he was reminded by a photograph on his wall of Christian Golczynski receiving a flag in honor of his fallen father of how many children will never receive another birthday gift from their parent who lost their life defending our freedoms; and

WHEREAS, Christian Golczynski was the first child to receive a birthday gift from ASC; since that time, the foundation has grown to serve more than 5,000 children throughout all fifty states; and

WHEREAS, ASC seeks to offer love to children left behind, honor the memory of the fallen, and provide hope for these children to live courageous lives; the organization does this through yearly birthday celebrations, camps and mentorship programs, and educational scholarship programs; and

WHEREAS, each year, ASC celebrates the birthday of children participating in the program, spending \$150 per child, per birthday, until the child reaches eighteen years of age; and

WHEREAS, ASC's mentoring programs include Journey Camp, a weeklong summer camp for those ages nine through seventeen; mini-camps that focus on activities such as golf, soccer, dance, theater, science, songwriting, culinary arts, and hunting and fishing; and PS23, a leadership development program for young adults; and

WHEREAS, the foundation also offers a special K-12 private school and trade school scholarship, the Xavier Martin "Fill In The Gap" Memorial Scholarship, for those children who do not qualify for other educational scholarships offered by military nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, throughout its existence, ASC has held fast to its vision of growing nationally and becoming a household name as the gold standard for military families, providing an opportunity for lifelong touch-points so that ASC recipients will say it is an honor to be A Soldier's Child; and

WHEREAS, it is our privilege to honor this venerable organization for its many contributions to the children of fallen Tennessee soldiers; 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 A Soldier's Child Foundation for its ongoing commitment to the well-being of children of fallen soldiers, extending our best wishes for the organization's continued 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.