

HOUSE RESOLUTION 43

By Vaughan

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Major Trevor Philip Joseph, United States Army, of Collierville.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous volunteer was Major Trevor Philip Joseph, United States Army, who was the Commander of the "Cajun Dustoff" MEDEVAC unit stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and who died in service to his country; and

WHEREAS, Major Trevor Philip Joseph was the embodiment of the American hero; he believed deeply in America and the virtue of its cause, never hesitating to sacrifice himself to defend his beloved Nation, its citizens, or a fellow serviceman; and

WHEREAS, a 2004 graduate of Houston High School in Collierville, Major Trevor Joseph attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and was commissioned as a medical service officer in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, a MEDEVAC helicopter pilot, Major Joseph was an exceptional leader and courageous aviator who was always proud to go above and beyond for the soldiers under his charge and never hesitated to undertake any mission, no matter the risk; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2019, Major Trevor Joseph led the Cajun Dustoff on a helicopter mission, putting his life in harm's way for the sake of others as he had done countless times before, and he gave his last full measure of devotion doing exactly that; and

WHEREAS, a man of great courage and gallantry, Major Joseph lost his life while serving his country, and for that sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his distinguished military service during his eleven-year career, Major Joseph was awarded a number of medals and commendations, including the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with Valor and Combat devices, two Army Commendation Medals, the Army Achievement Medal, the Parachutist Badge, the Combat Action Badge, and the Senior Aviator Badge; and

WHEREAS, deployed twice to Afghanistan, Major Trevor Joseph was one of four soldiers who were awarded the "Rescue of the Year" for their bravery and courage during a difficult MEDEVAC mission in Afghanistan in 2016; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband, son, and brother, Major Trevor Joseph is survived by his loving wife, Erin Joseph; his parents, Peter and Nancy Joseph; his brother, Peter Chadwick (Shannon) Joseph, Jr.; his parents-in-law, Tom and Karen Tutt; his brothers-in-law, Taylor (Elaina) Tutt and Trevor Tutt; and his sisters-in-law, Jackie Tutt, Jessie (Kelly) Edwards, and Allison Tutt; and

WHEREAS, he will be fondly remembered by his adoring nieces and nephews, Philip and Nathanael Joseph and Audrey, Emmett, and Evelyn Edwards, as well as a host of extended family members, his fellow soldiers, and his many dear friends; and

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

WHEREAS, Major Joseph's dedication to excellence and his love for his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country stand as enduring examples of the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our Nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Major Trevor Philip Joseph, United States Army, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Major Trevor Philip Joseph, a man of impeccable character, limitless courage, and stalwart commitment to the defense of his Nation as an officer in the United States Army, reflecting fondly upon his bravery and dedication 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 and friends of Major Joseph.

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