

HOUSE RESOLUTION 218

By Helton

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Samantha and Daniel McCanless and U.S. Congressman Scott DesJarlais for their heroism.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is blessed with compassionate citizens who come to the aid of their fellow human beings in times of great peril; and

WHEREAS, proud Tennesseans Samantha McCanless, who serves as the legislative assistant for Representative Esther Helton, her husband, Daniel McCanless, and Congressman Scott DesJarlais recently helped save the lives of four teenagers who were involved in a horrific motor vehicle accident; and

WHEREAS, one beautiful fall day, Samantha and Daniel McCanless started out on a weekend road trip; somewhere along their quaint drive from Manchester, Daniel decided to take a scenic country back road to Stevenson, Alabama, to go antiquing; and

WHEREAS, as they drove along the road, Samantha and Daniel noticed a big pickup truck that had flipped over, with one of its tires having been tossed into the middle of a field; they quickly realized that a single-vehicle accident had just occurred; and

WHEREAS, Daniel immediately stopped his truck, and both he and Samantha ran over to the vehicle to determine if anyone was inside and injured; there were indeed four teenagers in the truck, and the two boys were seriously injured, with one bleeding intensely from his leg and the other immobile; and

WHEREAS, Daniel McCanless, an experienced outdoorsman who is trained in all manner of lifesaving techniques and survival skills, sprang into action; after assessing all the victims visually, he and Samantha spoke to all four teenagers to make sure they were conscious and able to communicate; and

WHEREAS, Daniel quickly realized that the two boys were not doing well at all and that one boy was badly injured with an open wound; by tying the victim's belt to create a tourniquet for his wound, Daniel was able to stop the bleeding in one boy's leg, while Samantha quickly aided and tended to the injured teens' minor injuries with the first aid items they had improvised on the spot; and

WHEREAS, at some point, another passing motorist noticed the accident and, witnessing Daniel and Samantha's valiant efforts to assist the teens, ran to help them render aid; this person was none other than Tennessee's Fourth District Congressman and physician Dr. Scott DesJarlais; and

WHEREAS, Dr. DesJarlais quickly performed triage on the teens and directed Samantha in performing first aid with some helpful tips; then, noticing that Daniel was beginning to apply the tourniquet, he immediately ran to assist him and called life flight; and

WHEREAS, by the time the life flight arrived, Dr. DesJarlais and Daniel had stabilized the most seriously injured teens, and together, Daniel, Samantha, and Congressman DesJarlais had treated the teens to the best of their abilities with the materials at hand; and

WHEREAS, before leaving the scene to follow the helicopter, Congressman DesJarlais told Daniel that his tourniquet was by far one of the best field dressings he had ever seen and that he was thankful Daniel and Samantha had happened upon the accident; and

WHEREAS, these three Tennessee volunteers directly impacted the survival of four young people; their quick thinking under pressure and timely action are a testament to their character and good citizenship, and we are proud of their compassion and fearlessness in the face of great obstacles; and

WHEREAS, the members of the House of Representatives wish to extend our gratitude and approbation to them at this time; 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 and commend Samantha and Daniel McCanless and U.S. Congressman Scott DesJarlais for their actions in saving the lives of four teenagers, who would have otherwise been in a dire state lying seriously wounded on a little-used country road, and extend to them our gratitude and thanks for their heroism on that fateful day.

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