

HOUSE RESOLUTION 359

By Faulkner

A RESOLUTION recognizing Sheriff Lewis Bratch Hutcheson.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those intrepid Tennesseans who have given up their lives in the pursuit of justice and protection of the citizenry of this State; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Lewis Bratch "L.B." Hutcheson of Union County was one such individual; and

WHEREAS, born on June 14, 1884, L.B. Hutcheson married Della Lyons at the age of nineteen and settled in Maynardville with his young bride. An upstanding member of his community, he was elected to serve as sheriff of Union County at the age of forty-six; and

WHEREAS, on one fateful day in the spring of 1935, Sheriff Hutcheson responded to a call from the Citizens' Bank in Tazewell, which had just been robbed by Gus McCoig, Pete Dean, and Frank Hopson. Upon hearing that the nefarious ne'er-do-wells were fleeing Tazewell on Highway 33, the sheriff immediately leapt into action; and

WHEREAS, after racing up Highway 33, Sheriff Hutcheson and Deputy Austin Matthews parked near the bridge over the Clinch River and waited for the criminals, who soon sped past. After a short chase, the murderous thieves slowed their car to a stop on the south end of the bridge, blocking the highway; and

WHEREAS, while attempting to discuss the situation with the gang, Sheriff Hutcheson was ruthlessly gunned down by Gus McCoig, in full view of the deputy and a busload of passengers stopped on the bridge; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of this brutal crime, Della Hutcheson took up the reins of her husband's legacy, becoming the third woman to serve as sheriff in the State of Tennessee.

Sheriff L.B. Hutcheson bravely and unhesitatingly put himself in the line of danger in his attempt to protect the good people of Union County and Tennessee, and it is fitting that he be formally recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby posthumously recognize Sheriff Lewis Bratch Hutcheson, applauding his bravery in the face of imminent danger.

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