

SENATE BILL 1979

By Watson

AN ACT to name a Tennessee National Guard Armory in Chattanooga in honor of the late Command Sergeant Major Bobby G. Davis of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind in order to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer is Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Bobby G. Davis of the Tennessee Army National Guard, Retired, who served as the State Command Sergeant Major for the Tennessee Army National Guard and devoted his career to defending our great Nation; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Davis truly loved the Army and took great pride in the important role he played in our nation's defense; he served as the principal enlisted advisor and was responsible to the Adjutant General for the supervision, training, and well-being of nearly 10,000 enlisted soldiers in the Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, born in Palmer, Tennessee to Elmer and Christine Davis, he was a man of integrity who embodied the best of his community; and

WHEREAS, he proudly enlisted with the Tennessee Army National Guard on November 6, 1965, and served in every artillery enlisted leadership position from Corporal Assistant Gunner to Command Sergeant Major; and

WHEREAS, from 1975 until 1979, he served as First Sergeant of two firing batteries, 1st Battalion and 181st Field Artillery Battalion; Command Sergeant Major Davis was assigned as Battalion Operations Sergeant in 1979 prior to his promotion to Sergeant Major on July 10th, 1980; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed to the rank of Command Sergeant Major of the 196th Field Artillery Brigade on September 23rd, 1981, and served in this position throughout the unit's deployment to the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Command Sergeant Major Davis did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security, liberty, and freedom; as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, after serving with distinction during his tour of duty in the Persian Gulf, Command Sergeant Major Davis further distinguished himself as State Command Sergeant Major for the Tennessee Army National Guard, after being appointed thereto on September 30th, 1991, in which position he valiantly served for more than ten years; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Command Sergeant Major Davis evidenced an unswerving commitment to excellence that earned him many awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; NCO Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon;

Overseas Service Ribbon; Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia; Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard Distinguished Service Medal; Tennessee Army National Guard Commendation Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard Individual Achievement Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard Recruiting Merit Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard War Service Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard Service Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard Volunteer Ribbon; The Adjutant General Staff Badge; Tennessee National Guard Distinguished Unit Commendation; State of Tennessee Governor's Meritorious Unit Citation; Honorable Order of Saint Barbara; and the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara; and

WHEREAS, also deeply involved in his community, Command Sergeant Major Davis was affiliated with a number of civic, veterans, and military organizations: Veterans of Foreign Wars; American Legion; Enlisted Association of Tennessee, Enlisted Association of the United States; Noncommissioned Officer's Association of the United States; Fraternal Order of Firefighters; International Association of Firefighters; and the Alumni Association of the Tennessee Military Academy; and

WHEREAS, as a devoted member of Concord Baptist Church in Chattanooga and Woodland Park Baptist Church in Nashville, he was known for his solid Christian belief, his service and love, and his role as a reservoir of faith; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Davis was also dearly devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, this valiant soldier is survived by his loving wife, Denise Morris Davis; and

WHEREAS, he was the proud and loving father of the late Christy Michelle McBryar and her husband Tim; and

WHEREAS, his legacy will also be fondly remembered by his grandson, Davis McBryar; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Bobby G. Davis served with great courage and gallantry throughout his career, ever willing to sacrifice his personal safety and concerns for the enduring freedom of his country and the preservation of the ideals that forged this great Nation, and he deserves proper posthumous recognition; now, therefore

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Tennessee National Guard Armory located at 1801 South Holtzclaw Avenue in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, is hereby designated the "CSM Bobby G. Davis National Guard Armory" in recognition of the life of valor of the late Command Sergeant Major Bobby G. Davis, Tennessee Army National Guard, Retired.

SECTION 2. The Department of Military is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such edifice as the "CSM Bobby G. Davis National Guard Armory".

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.