

SENATE BILL 2085

By Burchett

AN ACT to name a Tennessee National Guard Armory in Knoxville in honor of the late Colonel Russell Austin Newman, United States Army, Retired.

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 the late Colonel Russell Austin Newman, United States Army, Retired, who devoted his career to defending our great Nation by serving as an instructor for the Tennessee Military Academy's Officer Candidate School, the Army National Guard Professional Education Center, and the United States Army Command and General Staff College; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Newman truly loved the Army and took great pride in the important role he played in protecting our national security, liberty, and freedom; and

WHEREAS, born in Knoxville, Tennessee, to Russell A. and Georgia Newman, he was a man of integrity who embodied the best of his community; and

WHEREAS, he attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration in 1953; upon graduating from the Army Reserve Officers'

Training Corps (ROTC), he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, continuing his military education, he attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course, the Armor Officer Advanced Course, and the United States Army's Command and General Staff College; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Colonel Newman valiantly served in several command and staff positions, both on active duty and in the National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Newman served as the first Regimental Commander of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) of the Tennessee National Guard which was initially organized in Knoxville in 1977; while he was serving as the regiment's First Colonel, the 278th ACR became one of only two heavy armored cavalry regiments in the nation; today this state-of-the-art unit holds the extremely prestigious designation as an Enhanced Brigade of the United States Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Colonel Newman evidenced an unswerving commitment to excellence that earned him many awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, Army Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, after serving in the military for nearly thirty-two years with distinction, Colonel Newman retired in 1985; during his retirement from the military, he joined the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and further distinguished himself as the first Director of the East Region of TEMA, in which position he was highly respected by his colleagues and employees for his exceptional work and ability; and

WHEREAS, also deeply involved in his community, Colonel Newman was affiliated with a number of civic and military organizations, lending to each his leadership and integrity. He

served as president of the National Guard Association of Tennessee, chairman and member of the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries, president of the Knoxville-Knox County Volunteer Emergency Rescue Squad, vice chairman of the Knox County Local Emergency Planning Committee, president of the North Side Optimist Club, chairman of the Knox Area Council of Boy Scouts of America, and a counselor for the John Tarleton Home for Children; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Newman was also devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; he will be fondly remembered by his family and a host of friends and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Russell Austin Newman 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 3330 Sutherland Avenue in Knoxville, Knox County, is hereby designated the "Colonel Russell Austin Newman National Guard Armory" in recognition of the life of valor of the late Colonel Russell Austin Newman, United States Army, Retired.

SECTION 2. The Department of Military is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such edifice as the "Colonel Russell Austin Newman National Guard Armory".

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