

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 2

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Detective Matthew Walker Blansett of Marion County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Detective Matthew Walker Blansett of the Marion County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, Detective Matt Blansett was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong resident of Marion County, Detective Blansett was a highly respected member of the South Pittsburg community; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from South Pittsburg High School, where he was a four-year letterman in football and baseball and a member of the 1999 state football championship team, he attended Chattanooga State Community College and earned a degree in criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, he served as the dispatcher for the City of South Pittsburg before accepting a position with the Marion County Sheriff's Department in 2002 as a county dispatcher; he then attended the police academy and embarked upon a twenty-year career as a deputy, followed by his promotion to detective; and

WHEREAS, Detective Blansett served as the commander and training officer of the SWAT team, the arson investigator of Marion County, and as a member of the county commission; he played an instrumental role in the creation of the K9 program in Marion County; and

WHEREAS, in all of his endeavors, Detective Blansett earned the respect of his colleagues and community alike for the superior quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, he was an active and devout member of South Pittsburg First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years; and

WHEREAS, in his leisure time, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time with his family and friends on the river; he especially loved coaching his son, Maddox, in baseball, and his greatest accomplishment in life was being a father to Maddox and Banks; and

WHEREAS, he was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Matt Blansett is survived by his wife, Codie Massengale Blansett, and his two sons, Maddox and Banks; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his parents, Donald and Donna Blansett; his sister, Samantha Rector (Tommy); his nephew, Luke Rector; his uncle, Jim Jackson (Frances); and several cousins and a host of friends; and

WHEREAS, Detective Matt Blansett leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life as a law enforcement officer, compassion and loyalty in his private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Detective Matthew Walker Blansett, reflecting fondly upon his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.