

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 125

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Officer James Wells of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department for his selfless act of heroism.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Officer James Wells of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, who, along with five fellow officers, has rightfully been hailed as a hero for his action in downtown Nashville on Christmas Day; and

WHEREAS, in the early hours of Christmas morning, December 25, 2020, Officer Tyler Luellen arrived on Second Avenue North in response to a call of shots fired; he immediately noticed a white RV parked on the street, its windows covered; and

WHEREAS, as Officer Luellen exited his patrol car, an announcement blared from the RV stating that a bomb was on board the vehicle and the area should be evacuated; and

WHEREAS, sensing the dire urgency of the situation, Officer Luellen called for backup; Sergeant Timothy Miller, Officer Brenna Hosey, Officer Michael Sipos, Officer Amanda Topping, and Officer James Wells arrived on the scene shortly thereafter; and

WHEREAS, the six officers sprang into action, going door-to-door to roust nearby downtown residents and usher them out of harm's way; as the officers were doing so, the ominous announcement took the form of a countdown, indicating that the bomb would detonate in fourteen minutes; and

WHEREAS, without hesitation or concern for their own safety, the officers continued their evacuation effort, ultimately making contact with, and undoubtedly saving the lives of, approximately seven families; and

WHEREAS, at 6:30 a.m., the bomb detonated; the officers recall a fierce wave of heat and orange light as the blast knocked some off their feet, shattered windows, and hurled debris that landed as far as several blocks away; and

WHEREAS, what was once a picturesque, historic, tree-lined street was left in ruins, with several buildings damaged or destroyed and more than forty businesses affected; the subsequent consensus was that it was a miracle only three people were injured; these six law enforcement officers were key players in this miracle; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Miller, Officer Hosey, Officer Luellen, Officer Sipos, Officer Topping, and Officer Wells are true heroes and the embodiment of the sacred call "to serve and protect"; and

WHEREAS, we owe these individuals a profound debt of gratitude for their selfless devotion, valor, and composure under unimaginable pressure and life-threatening circumstances; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we pause and honor Officer Wells and his colleagues to the full extent of our abilities at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Officer James Wells of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department for his heroic, life-saving actions on the morning of December 25, 2020, extending our sincere gratitude for his unparalleled bravery and continued service to the people of this State.

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.