

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 338

By

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Walter Keith Singleton and to commemorate his life and career on the forty-second anniversary of his posthumous receipt of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

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, the contributions of these brave soldiers must never be forgotten and their memory should not be neglected, as their efforts made possible the exemplary quality of life that is enjoyed by the citizens of Tennessee today; and

WHEREAS, the late Sergeant Walter Keith Singleton was one such courageous member of the United States Marine Corps; he was killed in combat while valiantly serving in Vietnam, and it is with the utmost reverence that we commemorate his life and career on the forty-second anniversary of his posthumous receipt of the Congressional Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, no person was more deserving of this ultimate honor than Sergeant Walter Singleton, who followed the patriotic tradition for which Shelby County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving his country with distinction and dedication befitting a true Hero; and

WHEREAS, a member of Alpha Company, First Battalion, Ninth Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division, Sergeant Singleton was mortally wounded on Friday, March 24, 1967, during an intense firefight with enemy forces in the Quang Tri Province of the Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Singleton's company was conducting combat operations when the lead platoon came under intense small arms, automatic weapons, rocket, and mortar fire from a well entrenched enemy force; and

WHEREAS, while fighting its way forward, the extremely heavy enemy fire caused numerous friendly casualties; and

WHEREAS, sensing the need for early treatment of the wounded, Sergeant Singleton quickly moved from his relatively safe position in the rear of the foremost point of the advance and made several trips through the enemy killing zone to move the injured men out of danger; and

WHEREAS, noting that much of the enemy's fire was coming from a hedgerow, Sergeant Singleton seized a machine gun and assaulted the key enemy location, delivering devastating fire as he advanced; he forced his way through the hedgerow directly into the enemy strong point; and

WHEREAS, despite his mortal wounds, Sergeant Walter Singleton killed eight of the enemy and drove the remainder from the hedgerow; and

WHEREAS, his bold actions in battle completely disorganized the enemy defense and saved the lives of many of his comrades; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Walter Keith Singleton served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Singleton's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers, and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sergeant Walter Keith Singleton and

commemorate his life, career, and supreme sacrifice on this, the forty-second anniversary of his posthumous receipt of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

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