

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 501

By Bowling

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Colonel Homer E. Kirby III for his distinguished military service.

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 citizens of Tennessee have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind 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, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and nation, the distinguished military service of every proud Tennessean should be illuminated, shared, and properly honored; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Colonel Homer E. Kirby III, a gallant veteran of the United States Armed Forces, who rendered twenty-six years of distinguished military service; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Kirby began his military career in the United States Air Force, by which he was commissioned at the rank of Second Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, to advance his career, he transferred to the United States Army, during which time he graduated from medical school with a Doctor of Osteopathy degree; and

WHEREAS, over his twenty-six-year career, Colonel Homer Kirby served with four different branches of the armed services in a succession of key posts and saw combat duty in

Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan, where he risked life and limb to treat and provide care for the soldiers in his unit, including those injured and wounded in action; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Kirby was awarded a number of medals, ribbons, and commendations for his service to our country, including the Bronze Star, multiple Meritorious Service Medals, and the Combat Medical Badge, which was awarded to him for performing medical duties while being engaged by the enemy; and

WHEREAS, in his civilian life, Colonel Homer Kirby has continued to serve his fellow citizens as a dedicated, dynamic, and personable medical professional in both private and public practice; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Homer E. Kirby III exemplifies a true citizen-soldier in the best tradition of a Tennessee Volunteer, both in peace and wartime; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his bravery and dedication to preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor Colonel Kirby to the full extent of our ability, as he has made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today; 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 Colonel Homer E. Kirby III for his courageous service to our nation as one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

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.