

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 611

By Gardenhire

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Captain Larry Lowe Taylor, United States Army (retired) for meritorious 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, Captain Larry Lowe Taylor, honorably discharged from the United States Army, was born and raised in, and remains a citizen of, Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Captain Larry Taylor was commissioned as an officer in June 1966 and attended Armor Officers Basic training course at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Army Flight School at Fort Walters, Texas; and

WHEREAS, serving in Vietnam from August 1967 until August 1968, Captain Taylor flew over 2,000 missions while in country assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, and was awarded sixty-two combat decorations, including forty-four Air Medals, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, two Bronze Stars, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, and the Silver Star; and

WHEREAS, Captain Taylor, who at the time held the rank of Lieutenant, was deployed as a helicopter pilot with the 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron/4<sup>th</sup> U.S. Cavalry, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Republic of Vietnam, on the night of June 18, 1968, and while piloting his AH-1G "Cobra" helicopter gunship as its Aircraft Commander and the Flight Leader of his two-gunship fire team, provided direct fire support for a U.S. Army four-man Long Range Patrol (LRP) Team that had become surrounded by a greatly numerically superior enemy force near the village of Ap Go Cong, Binh Duong Province, and was on the verge of being overrun and killed; and

WHEREAS, Captain Taylor thereupon distinguished himself by his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, by continually conducting highly aggressive and effective close air support for said LRP Team, all the while braving extremely heavy enemy automatic weapons fire and receiving battle damage to his gunship; and

WHEREAS, Captain Taylor, knowing that no transport helicopter was immediately available to make an emergency extraction of the LRP Team, and out of ammunition, low on fuel, and aware that his Cobra gunship had no internal cabin in which to carry the LRP Team, nonetheless unhesitatingly landed his gunship while still under continual and heavy enemy fire so that the Team, who were themselves out of ammunition, could climb aboard the outside of the gunship and be taken to safety, thereby saving the lives of his four fellow soldiers despite the clear, extreme risk to his own life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Captain Larry Lowe Taylor for his extraordinary courage and selfless and outstanding act of heroism and dedication to his fellow soldiers for which he should be awarded, without delay, our nation's highest military honor, the 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.