

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 817

By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Macon County first responders for their heroism and professionalism.

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue a time-honored tradition of public service as first responders, facing the rigors of corporeal imperilment in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, "first responders" is defined in U.S. Homeland Security Presidential Directive HSPD-8(3) as "...those individuals who in the early stages of an incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property, evidence, and the environment including emergency response providers ..., as well as emergency management, public, health, clinical, care, public works, and other skilled support personnel that provide immediate support services during prevention, response, and recover operations"; and

WHEREAS, Macon County first responders rendered exemplary service in the aftermath of the devastating tornado that swept through the county on February 5, 2008, resulting in the loss of life, serious injuries, and millions of dollars in property damage; and

WHEREAS, Macon County first responders immediately combed the area looking for persons trapped in debris, those injured, or the deceased before a possible second tornado touched down; knowing that if another tornado hit the area those already injured would be at greater risk, the first responders put their lives at risk to help their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette was fortunate, because the second tornado flew over the town; still, many first responders spent days and even weeks in the field responding to all of the needs that arose from this disaster; and

WHEREAS, February 5, 2008, was a day the good people of Macon County will not forget, nor will they forget what the county's first responders accomplished on that horrible day; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Macon County know that twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, the county's first responders are coming to the aid of their friends, neighbors, and family, meeting their needs, and helping them in many ways; and

WHEREAS, on May 13, 2016, the Macon County Republican Party will recognize and honor Macon County first responders at their annual dinner, secure in the knowledge that each first responder in Macon County reports to work daily with one goal in mind: to protect the safety and health of those in distress; and

WHEREAS, these courageous first responders include: Air Evac Life Team, Tim Booher, Program Director; Lafayette Police Department, Stacy Gann, Chief; Lafayette Fire Department, Keith Scruggs, Chief; Macon County General Hospital, Dennis Wolford, Administrator; Macon County Emergency Call Center, Phil Russell, Director; Macon County Emergency Medical Services, Mike Etheridge, Director; Macon County Sheriff's Office, Mark Gammons, Sheriff; Macon County Rescue Squad, Don Stephens, Unit Director, and Todd Wagoner, Captain; West Macon Rescue Squad, Thomas O'Saille, Captain, and Kimmy Wix, President; Red Boiling Springs Fire and Rescue, Randall Bray, Chief; Red Boiling Springs Police Department, Terry Tuck, Chief; and Willette Volunteer Fire Department, Danny Dozier, Chief; and

WHEREAS, outstanding in the line of duty, Macon County first responders are citizens of whom the Volunteer State is most proud, and they should be recognized for their professionalism and compassion in the face of danger; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize Macon County first responders for their heroism and professionalism in coming to the aid of their fellow citizens in the aftermath of the devastating tornado of February 5, 2008.

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