

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 838

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Walt Goolsby for his lifetime of achievements.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly should pay homage to those inspirational citizens whose exemplary lifetime of achievements stand as a monument to a life well-lived; and

WHEREAS, such an outstanding individual is Mr. Walt Goolsby, a highly successful real estate broker, who is a longtime resident of the Kingston community; and

WHEREAS, a native of Livingston, Tennessee, Walt Goolsby began his professional career as a land surveyor, first with the State of Tennessee for highway projects and bridge construction, and then for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and

WHEREAS, as a surveyor for the Corps, Mr. Goolsby did all the surveying for the agency at Dale Hollow Lake in Overton, Pickett and Clay counties, spending more than one and one-half years on the project; and

WHEREAS, in November 1943, while he and his beloved bride, Ollie, awaited the arrival of their first child, Walt's future quickly changed as he received notice from the local draft board to report for military service in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, seeing his baby boy, Bill, just twice while on leave before heading off to war, Walt Goolsby saw action during World War II as a member of the U.S. Navy, as a radar technician on the USS McCoy Reynolds (DE-440); and

WHEREAS, after boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois, Mr. Goolsby was sent to training at Norfolk, Virginia, where he learned the Navy's newest tool in warfare, radar, which had only recently been invented; and

WHEREAS, assigned to the USS McCoy Reynolds (DE-440), a destroyer designed to escort and protect the Navy's fleet and submarines, Walt Goolsby was one of 236 able seamen aboard a ship originally built to carry only 185 sailors; and

WHEREAS, heading to its assignment in the Pacific, the vessel sailed to various ports of call in the North Atlantic Ocean and traveled through the Panama Canal on its way to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and the Pacific Ocean where, as a hunter/killer ship, it sank two Japanese submarines and received four battle stars; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Goolsby was on board the McCoy Reynolds as it sailed through the eye of a 100-year typhoon, battling sixty-foot waves, as the only vessel in the worst part of the horrific storm that hit 124 other U.S. Navy vessels in two fleets; and

WHEREAS, during his Navy service, Mr. Goolsby made several post-war trips to Okinawa and later to Nagasaki, where he was a first-hand witness to the devastation as part of the military crew visiting after the bomb was dropped; and

WHEREAS, returning from war, Walt Goolsby intended to rejoin the Corps of Engineers, but accepted a lucrative offer to join the work at Oak Ridge, and he spent the next thirty-five years there, first at the K-25 Site and later at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, retiring from the U.S. Department of Energy in 1982; and

WHEREAS, during his years at Oak Ridge, Mr. Goolsby developed an interest in real estate and earned his real estate license in 1968, later joining forces with his son and his daughter-in-law in his son's real estate office, West Town Realty in Kingston, where he continues to sell real estate; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who is rightfully very proud of his military service, Mr. Goolsby sparked the establishment of what has become an annual reunion of the crew of the USS McCoy Reynolds by locating dozens of his fellow shipmates; and

WHEREAS, a devoted family man, Walt Goolsby enjoyed many years of wedded bliss with his late wife, Ollie Goolsby, and enjoys the love and support of his son and daughter-in-law,

Bill and Marty Goolsby, and his granddaughter and grandson-in-law, Dana and Albert, who reside in California where he often visits to see his treasured great-grandson, Oliver; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to specially commend Walt Goolsby for his laudable career, his impeccable character, and his commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that hereby honor and commend Walt Goolsby of Roane County for his lifetime of outstanding achievements, recognizing his years of distinguished service to his country and his community, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in all his future endeavors.

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