

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 848

By Black

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Chief Warrant Officer 2
Billie Jean Grinder, Tennessee Army National
Guard.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Billie Jean Grinder, a courageous member of the Tennessee Army National Guard who gave her life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Chief Warrant Officer Billie Jean Grinder was a brave and honorable member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, C Troop, 1st Squadron, 230th Cavalry Regiment, based in Louisville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Grinder, who was twenty-five years of age, lost her life in a hard crash while flying her OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopter near Qayyarah Airfield West (Q-West) about thirty miles south of Mosul in northern Iraq on February 21, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a native of Smyrna and resident of Gallatin, Billie Jean Grinder was a tough but girly tomboy who thrived on excitement and adventure and will be forever remembered for her trademark smile and heart of gold; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, this remarkable young woman answered duty's call and enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard when she was a senior at Smyrna High School; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Grinder served with distinction as a Paralegal Specialist until receiving her commission as a Warrant Officer in March of 2007 and joining Company A, 1-230th Air Cavalry Squadron; and

WHEREAS, Billie Jean Grinder, along with her fellow soldiers of the Tennessee Army National Guard, was mobilized in March of 2009 and deployed to Iraq three months later; Ms. Grinder's father, husband, and sister, also members of the Tennessee National Guard, deployed as well; and

WHEREAS, a woman of great courage and gallantry, Chief Warrant Officer Grinder lost her life while serving her country and the cause in which she believed, and for that sacrifice, she deserves proper recognition; as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, she proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his distinguished military service, Billie Jean Grinder was awarded the Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, Tennessee Commendation Medal, Tennessee Counter Drug Service Ribbon, Tennessee Service Ribbon with Bronze Service Star, Tennessee Individual Achievement Ribbon, Tennessee Distinguished Unit Commendation, Tennessee War Service Ribbon, and posthumously, the Air Medal; and

WHEREAS, Chief Warrant Officer Grinder was guided and supported by the members of her proud military family, and she herself was deeply devoted to them and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Billie Jean Grinder is survived by her beloved husband, Sam Grinder; her father, Billy Davenport; her mother, Roxanne Davenport; her sister, Melissa Smith; her two step-daughters, Megan and Makayla; and a host of friends, family, and loved ones; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Chief Warrant Officer Billie Jean Grinder, Tennessee Army National Guard, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; 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 Chief Warrant Officer 2 Billie Jean Grinder, a woman of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed herself to the

defense of her nation as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, and reflect fondly upon her bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Billie Jean Grinder.

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