

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1062

By Pody

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William M. Manier in recognition of his lifetime of service to his country and his community.

WHEREAS, it is our pleasure to commemorate the life of a World War I veteran, American Legion Post 179 Commander, and police officer who patrolled the streets of Lebanon for more than two decades; and

WHEREAS, William M. Manier was the first full-time African-American police officer to serve with the Lebanon Police Department and was believed to be the nation's oldest active policeman when he passed away on August 20, 1979, at the age of eighty-three; and

WHEREAS, the son of Tennie and Carl Lee Manier, William Manier was born on March 15, 1896, in the Stonewall community in Smith County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Manier enlisted in the United States Army when he was twenty-one years old and crossed the Atlantic Ocean with the 92nd Division during World War I; he served with Company G 806 Pioneer Infantry in the fall of 1918 in the Argonne Offensive and was wounded in the same leg twice; and

WHEREAS, William Manier joined American Legion Post 88 in Chicago, Illinois, in April 1919 and transferred his membership to Cincinnati, Ohio, four years later; after resettling in his hometown of Lebanon, he chartered American Legion Post 179 in 1931 and served as its post commander, in which position he was dedicated to serving his fellow veterans and ensured that they received the assistance they required and deserved; and

WHEREAS, his tireless efforts to serve his fellow veterans did not go unnoticed, as officials of the Veterans Administration (VA) praised him for his ability to transport more veterans to VA hospitals than any other post service officer in the State; and

WHEREAS, William Manier's devotion to the American Legion was legendary across the Volunteer State and the entire country, as he attended more than fifty annual conventions and was the first African-American service officer from Tennessee to be invited to the National American Legend Rehabilitation Conference in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, he was the first African American to win the Babe Steagall Trophy for his work on behalf of veterans and their widows and orphans and was the recipient of the 1972 Legionnaire of the Year Award. Two years after his death, a segment of Bluebird Road in Lebanon was renamed in his honor, marking the first time a street in the city had been named for an African American; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Manier joined the Lebanon Police Department in the 1950s and patrolled the streets of the city, ensuring the safety and welfare of his fellow citizens and commanding the respect of the community; and

WHEREAS, William Manier epitomized the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly honor the life and legacy of this proud veteran and law enforcement officer; 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 honor the memory of William M. Manier, reflecting fondly upon his lifetime of service to his country and his community, his impeccable character, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

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.