

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1183

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to acknowledge the heroism displayed by the late Steven Michael Zywicki, Sr. during recent flooding in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is the sad, but important, duty of this General Assembly to honor the memory of those courageous Tennesseans who made the ultimate sacrifice while attempting to save the lives of fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, as floodwaters encompassed Tennessee on May 2, 2010, Steven Zywicki of Tennessee Ridge lost his life while trying to rescue his neighbors, James and Linda Ritenour, from their stranded vehicle; and

WHEREAS, on that fateful day, Mr. and Mrs. Ritenour were trying to reach home when their vehicle was flooded as the result of a swollen creek; and

WHEREAS, the Ritenours were stranded atop their vehicle when Mr. Zywicki, their neighbor, threw Mrs. Ritenour a lifeline; she was pulled beneath the floodwaters after grabbing the lifeline, and both Mr. Ritenour and Mr. Zywicki jumped in to rescue her; and

WHEREAS, although Mr. Ritenour was able to swim to safety, both Mrs. Ritenour and Mr. Zywicki were lost; and

WHEREAS, our hearts and prayers go out to Mr. Zywicki's family, who lost their husband, father, grandfather, and brother to the flood; we sincerely hope that Mr. Zywicki's heroism and unselfishness in his final moments will provide them with some comfort in the days to come; and

WHEREAS, a native of Pontiac, Michigan, Steven Zywicki was the son of the late Stanley W. and Louise Lebarge Zywicki; of the Catholic faith, he was retired from General Motors; and

WHEREAS, this courageous gentleman is survived by his wife, Kathryn Sierra Zywicki; his son, Steven M. Zywicki, Jr. and wife, Joanna; his step-son, Rolando Flores, Jr.; his daughter, Marjorie L. Zywicki; his brothers, William Zywicki, Kenneth Zywicki, Andrew Zywicki, and Douglas Zywicki; his grandson, Collin Zywicki; eight step-grandchildren; and two great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Steven Zywicki sacrificed his life while attempting to save his neighbor's life; this heroic act finds every Tennessean in complete agreement with his efforts, but heartbroken at the outcome of this tragic incident; and

WHEREAS, although we hope his family finds peace and acceptance in dealing with this tragedy, we also know that they will remember forever the selflessness and courage Mr. Zywicki displayed in the face of disaster; 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 hereby acknowledge the heroism displayed by the late Steven Michael Zywicki, Sr. in attempting to save the life of his neighbor during recent flooding in Tennessee, a heroic act that cost him his life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we honor Mr. Zywicki's memory and express our condolences and extend our sympathy to his family and many friends.

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