

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1303

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Kenneth Wayne Matheney, recipient of the Soldier's Medal.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and nation, the distinguished military service of each and every proud Tennessean should be illuminated, shared, and properly honored; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Wayne Matheney is one such individual, who was awarded the Soldier's Medal for heroism exhibited while attending a military conference in Carona, Sicily, on December 10, 1992; and

WHEREAS, on that fateful day, Mr. Matheney, who held the rank of Staff Sergeant, United States Army, at that time, heroically rescued three individuals from a burning house by himself; although the house was engulfed in flames and smoke, Staff Sergeant Matheney crawled throughout the house to rescue the victims, disregarding the extraordinary danger and risk to his own life; and

WHEREAS, had it not been for the heroic efforts of Staff Sergeant Matheney, the three whom he rescued would surely have perished; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Army's 14th Military Police (MP) Brigade, Kenneth Matheney successfully completed advanced training in a number of specializations, including firearms training; ethics training; non-commissioned officers development; patrol procedures; nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare; and special weapons and tactical operations; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Matheney served his nation with the utmost integrity and valor and was awarded a number of medals and commendations during his years of service, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, German Armed Forces Badge, Senior Air Forces Policeman Badge, Southwest Asia Service Medal, and the Army Good Conduct Award; and

WHEREAS, displaying undaunted courage and unwavering devotion to duty, Staff Sergeant Matheney reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Military Police and the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can adequately relay our gratitude for his bravery in the line of fire and his dedication to preserving the treasured freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor Kenneth Matheney to the full extent of our ability, as he made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties that we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; 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 and commend Kenneth Wayne Matheney upon his receipt of the Soldier's Medal, applaud his meritorious military service, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

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.