

SENATE RESOLUTION 28

By Haile

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Kelly Trice Coats for his service in the United States Army.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in honoring those members of the United States military who, throughout their distinguished careers, have served with honor, bravery, and an unswerving commitment to duty; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Kelly Trice Coats, who served in the United States Army for a decade as a non-commissioned officer, reaching the pinnacle of his chosen specialty with his promotion to the leadership position of Chief Instructor, U.S. Army Jumpmaster School, at Ft. Benning, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coats began his military career in 2003 and ultimately saw two tours of duty in Iraq, in 2005-2006 and 2008-2009; and

WHEREAS, from August 2008 to December 2010, he served as Team Leader, Rifle Platoon, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, in which capacity he conducted more than 100 combat patrols with no loss of life; he then assumed the role of Squad Leader, supervising nine soldiers and two team leaders, and was subsequently promoted to Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coats was selected by the Brigade Command Sergeant Major to serve as Airborne Instructor, 1/507th Parachute Infantry Regiment; he remained in this position from December 2010 to April 2011, during which time he taught all aspects of Airborne Operations; and

WHEREAS, from May 2011 to August 2011, as part of the 1/507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Kelly Coats attended Jumpmaster School and then performed Jumpmaster duties as Airborne Instructor, training future paratroopers in all related airborne operations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coats served as Jumpmaster Instructor, 1/507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, from September 2011 to December 2011, before ascending to the role of Chief Instructor, U.S. Army Jumpmaster School at Ft. Benning, Georgia, the country's primary Jumpmaster School; and

WHEREAS, as Chief Instructor, he was accountable for twelve instructors as well as the supervision and development of all coursework, oversight, and equipment, with fifty to sixty students passing through the program every three weeks; graduation rates during his tenure increased to eighty percent, up from the previous average of less than sixty percent; and

WHEREAS, for his exceptional service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Coats was awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Silver Basic Recruiter Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, and Driver and Mechanic Badge with Driver-wheeled Vehicle Clasp; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Kelly Coats served these United States and the State of Tennessee with honor and distinction, and it is wholly fitting that we recognize him for his sterling military service; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor and commend Kelly Trice Coats of the United States Army for ten years of devoted service to the people of this nation, extending our gratitude for his many years of selfless service and our best wishes for his every future happiness and success.

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