

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 92  
By Tidwell

A RESOLUTION to designate a certain segment of State Route 203 in Wayne County as the "Sergeant Donnie Edward Horton Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, thousands of brave American men and women have served their country in the armed forces, defending the most inviolate principles of human freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, this meritorious service continues the time-honored tradition of Tennessee volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, since this great nation's inception, our armed forces have unselfishly paid the price of freedom for their friends and families, and for all of us; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should honor those courageous persons who have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Donnie Edward Horton was one such person, a member of Company A , 502 Infantry, 101st Airborne Division who was killed when an anti-tank mine exploded near him while serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the son of Edward and Lois Horton, Sergeant Horton was born on November 20, 1949 in Wayne County, and lived with his family in Cromwell Crossroads Community on Bear Creek Road; and

WHEREAS, he attended grammar school at Pinbook School in the Lutts Community and later attended Collingwood High School, graduating in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Donnie Edward Horton was ordered to Vietnam in southeast Asia with his unit and while there rose to the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Horton participated in at least two major operations in Vietnam, Operation Randolph Glen and Operation Texas Star, having the mission to rid that area of the NVA because of its significance as a major infiltration route and supply house for the entire region; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Horton and his platoon were ordered to move from fire base Blaze to fire base Veghel along road QL-547 in the A Shau Valley region of the Thua Thein Province east of Laos and it was during this move that the mine exploded, killing Sergeant Horton and wounding his commanding officer; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Horton made the ultimate sacrifice while serving his country, and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medals; and

WHEREAS, prior to his death, Sergeant Donnie Edward Horton was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Expert Badge with automatic rifle, rifle, pistol and mortar bars attached; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we honor the memory of this fine soldier by dedicating a lasting memorial in his name; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE

SENATE CONCURRING, That the segment of State Route 203 in Wayne County, from its juncture with State Route 13 to the Hardin County line, is hereby designated as the "Donnie Edward Horton Memorial Highway", in honor of this gentleman who served his nation with great valor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs, both easterly and westerly, designating such segment of State Route 203 as the "Donnie Edward Horton Memorial Highway".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Transportation.