

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 560
By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Major Max Lankes for meritorious service.

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, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army; one such individual is Major Max Lankes, Executive Officer of the 199th Infantry Brigade Advisory Group; and

WHEREAS, Max Lankes was born on January 13, 1936 in Landshut, Germany, to Max and Maria Lankes; and

WHEREAS, his father served in the Army during World War II while his mother protected him and his younger brother from the Nazi propaganda of their country's chancellor, Adolf Hitler; and

WHEREAS, Max Lankes grew up amidst the food rations and bombing raids of World War II, but with the exception of his father, who was lost on the Russian front in 1945, his family was unhurt; and

WHEREAS, upon the remarriage of his mother to an American soldier in 1948, Max and his new family traveled across the ocean and settled in Dillingham, North Carolina; his stepfather remained in the military, and young Max and his brother attended a one-room school where their teachers taught them the English language and how to adapt to their new way of life in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, after graduating from high school, Max Lankes joined the United States Army, and was sent to Fort Campbell to become part of the 508th Airborne Regimental

Control Team serving in Japan; in 1956 he returned to Fort Campbell and took part in the organization of the 101st Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, in 1957, Max Lankes met and married his wife, the former Nancy Corley; they would eventually settle in Mt. Juliet; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, he entered Officer's Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, subsequently attended Ranger School, and then returned to the 101st Airborne Division where he served with great bravery and ability as Platoon Leader and Company Commander; and

WHEREAS, receiving orders to go to Vietnam in 1963, Max Lankes was sent to Language School before being assigned to work with the advisory team on his first tour of duty from 1964-65; upon the sudden death of his oldest son in 1965, he returned home and worked for two years with the United States Air Force as a Ground Liaison officer at Sewart Air Force Base in Smyrna; and

WHEREAS, Max Lankes served a second tour of duty in Vietnam as the Operations Officer of the 199th Infantry Brigade from 1968-69; when he returned to the United States, he served as the Executive Officer of the Advisory Group in Nashville, where he was frequently and happily required to parachute from airplanes as part of the Airborne Quartermaster Supply Company; and

WHEREAS, on August 31, 1974, Max Lankes retired from military service after twenty years, one month, and twenty-five days, with the rank of Major; he performed his duties with the singular skill, dedication, and professionalism that can only be categorized as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, Max Lankes then obtained an agency with the Nationwide Insurance Company, from which he retired in 1996 after twenty-two years; for the last fifteen years he has been active in the Rotary Club, where he served as President in 1995, and is an active Republican, having served as Chairman of the Wilson County Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, he enjoys reading and playing golf during his retirement; he and his wife traveled to Germany to visit relatives and his home town several times before she passed away in 1998; and

WHEREAS, Max Lankes is also deeply devoted to his family, and he has always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; before her passing, he enjoyed

the loving companionship of his wife, Nancy, for forty-one years, and, having lost his eldest son, is the proud father of his three remaining children and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Max Lankes's courageous service stands as an enduring example of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our Nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, though we cannot adequately express our appreciation to the courageous men and women of the United States Army who have engaged in preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor them to the full extent of our ability, as they have made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties 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 FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend a true patriot, Major Max Lankes of Wilson County, for meritorious service in the United States Army and for unselfishly paying the price of freedom for his friends, family, and all Americans when war disrupted the peace and prosperity of American life and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

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