

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 55

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the soldiers of the 1-16th Agribusiness Development Team, Tennessee Army National Guard for their meritorious service in Afghanistan.

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, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking 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, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer. Always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Tennessee National Guard selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the soldiers of the 1-16<sup>th</sup> Agribusiness Development Team, Tennessee Army National Guard, under the command of Colonel Jim D. Moore, are especially deserving of our deepest admiration and thanks for their valiant service in support of the rebuilding effort in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, this highly specialized unit from Tennessee is part of a cooperative effort initiated three years ago by the U.S. State Department, and with help from the Department of Agriculture, the Corps of Engineers, and many other government agencies, the 1-16<sup>th</sup> Agribusiness Development Team is involved in a multi-faceted mission to help renovate the local Afghan economy and stabilize the region; and

WHEREAS, the sixty-four citizen-soldiers of the 1-16<sup>th</sup> Agribusiness Development Team will rely on their expertise in agronomy; fruit production, vegetable production, and livestock production; civil engineering; water management; beekeeping; and other aspects of farming in an effort to revitalize agriculture in one of Afghanistan's high mountain provinces; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee unit will operate in Paktya, Afghanistan, a high-altitude province bordered on the northeast by Pakistan; the unit will not only train local farmers in general farming practices and marketing cooperatives, but will also create demonstration farms where Afghan villagers can examine modern farming techniques in practice; and

WHEREAS, the 1-16<sup>th</sup> Agribusiness Development Team includes: Colonel Jim D. Moore, Lieutenant Colonel Joseph M. Lyles, Major John W. Boatwright, Major Lee M. Sharber, Major James W. Thompson, Captain Robert M. Hancock, Captain James G. Macrellis, Captain Patrick Rasmussen, Captain David M. Roberts, First Lieutenant Douglas E. Long, Sergeant First Class Gregory R. Boyd, Private Second Class Randall R. Bright, Specialist George W. Brimer, Sergeant Roger B. Broach, Private First Class James O. Bullard, First Sergeant Ronald H. Cannon, Sergeant Randy R. Cason, Private First Class Timothy M. Castleberry, Sergeant Major Stanley D. Cates, Sergeant Sherman L. Crawford, Specialist William J. Debord, Specialist Robert D. Elias, Specialist William H. Ely, Sergeant Scott A. Fields, Staff Sergeant Brandon S. Fletcher, Specialist Anthony J. Forrester, Sergeant Jeffrey A. Fryer, Sergeant First Class Robert A. Haley, Specialist Lindsey D. Higginbotham, Specialist Timothy R. Jenkins, Sergeant Ernesto Jimenez, Private First Class Charles A. Johnson, Specialist Jeremy W. Kail, Staff Sergeant

Ernest C. Kemper, Sergeant Danny L. Kilgore, Specialist Bobby W. Lawrence, Sergeant Joseph C. Lee, Sergeant Ian W. Martin, Sergeant First Class Randy R. McKeehan, Specialist Christopher J. McPhetridge, Specialist Matthew A. Miller, Private First Class Nathaniel T. Mitchell, Sergeant Robert L. Moore, Staff Sergeant Donald E. Novotny, Staff Sergeant Steven A. Proctor, Specialist Marshall E. Randle, Sergeant First Class Timothy R. Richard, Specialist Eric L. Roper, Sergeant Charles M. Rose, Specialist Dustin M. Rottero, Sergeant First Class Charles A. Stewart, Sergeant Reginald M. Streeter, Specialist Todd A. Steffen, Private Second Class Christopher S. Trent, Sergeant Frank H. Turner, Specialist James R. Valencourt, Sergeant Bryan M. Vannet, Specialist Jeremy B. Vincent, Sergeant Philip L. Wallace, Staff Sergeant John F. Ward, Staff Sergeant Justin L. Washabaugh, Staff Sergeant Leyman J. Weaver, Sergeant First Class Richard M. White, and Sergeant First Class George M. Winters; these gallant soldiers are serving on our behalf, boldly and without hesitation or complaint, proudly upholding the ideal of the citizen soldier, an essential tradition of American society; and

WHEREAS, their 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; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend the members of the 1-16<sup>th</sup> Agribusiness Development Team, Tennessee Army National Guard for their valiant service to our State and Nation as they deploy to Afghanistan as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom, extending to them our sincerest gratitude for preserving our freedom.

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