

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 864

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to recognize Jesse L. Simmons, Sr., on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should honor those exemplary public servants who have dedicated their careers to protecting their fellow citizens and preserving the public safety; and

WHEREAS, Jesse L. Simmons, Sr., is one such estimable person who has served with great valor, professionalism, and dedication to duty for twenty-five years as a police officer and security guard at Arnold Air Force Base, earning a much-deserved retirement on March 4, 2010; and

WHEREAS, a native of Tennessee, Jesse Simmons was a standout football player at Townsend High School in Winchester and earned his diploma in 1964; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Mr. Simmons answered duty's call and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 1965; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Simmons served with the courage and conviction of a true patriot in South Vietnam with the 5th Marine Division before returning to Camp Pendleton and providing his unparalleled expertise with the M-14 to new recruits as a marksmanship instructor; and

WHEREAS, during his notable service with the United States Marine Corps, Jesse Simmons garnered a number of decorations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Devices, Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Simmons found the love of his life and was joined in holy matrimony with Bettie Bonner on November 11, 1967 at the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church in Cowan; and

WHEREAS, returning to his beloved Tennessee in 1969, Mr. Simmons served with acumen and alacrity at the Marquette Cement Company in Cowan for ten years, where he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike due to the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Simmons joined the Tennessee National Guard in 1970, excelling in a variety of positions and ascending to the rank of First Sergeant in the 115th Field Artillery Battalion; and

WHEREAS, a highly decorated member of the Guard, Jesse Simmons received numerous awards for outstanding performance, including the Army Achievement Medal and the Tennessee National Guard Commendation Ribbon for Exceptional Services; and

WHEREAS, possessing an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, Mr. Simmons attended the Communication Electronics School in Fort Sill, Oklahoma and the Tennessee Military Academy, where he earned the 700 Club Membership Award; and

WHEREAS, a true leader among his peers, Mr. Simmons rendered sterling service on the Non-Commissioned Officer Development Program Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Simmons served with resolute dedication while displaying the finest qualities of military distinction for thirty-three years before retiring from the United States armed services; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons began his distinguished tenure in law enforcement in 1983 with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department in Winchester; his loyalty and commitment to justice fueled his determination to become an officer of the law, and on May 13, 1983, Jesse Simmons, with unquestionable courage and competence, graduated from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy; and

WHEREAS, a true keeper of the peace, Jesse Simmons has astutely served as a police officer and security guard since 1985 at Arnold Air Force Base, performing his appointed duties in an commendable manner that distinguished him as a credit to both his community and his profession; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Simmons placed first and fifth in the Air Force Material Command Peace Keeper Challenge and, in 2002, won both the ACS

Base Services Operations Employee of the Quarter Award and the Security Forces Team/Civil Authorities Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Simmons exemplifies the values of hard work, compassion, and devotion to community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and a diligent officer of the law; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Jesse Simmons has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; 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 Jesse L. Simmons, Sr., for this twenty-five years of exemplary service with the Arnold Air Force Base and Aerospace Testing Alliance, thank him for his bravery and dedication, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

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