

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1344

By Matheny

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend David C. Shelton for his great courage and heroism.

WHEREAS, over much of its history, Tennessee has been known as the Volunteer State because it has been the home of so many valiant men, women, and children who have responded with great courage and strength of character in times of trouble and adversity, whether in war or peace; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessean is David C. Shelton, a Highway Maintenance Worker 3 with the Tennessee Department of Transportation who, on May 18, 2010, acted with courage and resourcefulness to save the lives of countless individuals on I-24; and

WHEREAS, assigned to the Floating Crew in the District 25 office in Tullahoma, David Shelton, on that fateful morning, was driving a Gradall on I-24 East on his way to a job site in Franklin County; as he neared mile marker 127 on the Grundy-Coffee County line he witnessed a massive twenty-five foot sinkhole suddenly open and begin to cave in on the roadway; and

WHEREAS, a tractor-trailer truck that had just passed him narrowly avoided the sinkhole, but not damage, as it ended up in the median; acting quickly, Mr. Shelton pulled his Gradall to the shoulder of the interstate, jumped out of the vehicle, and, with no thought of his own safety, singlehandedly stopped traffic on the busy interstate; and

WHEREAS, with nothing between him and the oncoming traffic, David Shelton displayed resolute courage as he ran toward oncoming vehicles waving his hands and yelling loudly to get the attention of the oncoming drivers, who, if not stopped, would undoubtedly have faced serious injury; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shelton's quick presence of mind and selfless actions prevented tragedy that Thursday morning; and

WHEREAS after putting barrels up around the sinkhole, he checked on the driver of the truck who was shaken but unharmed; and

WHEREAS, a true Tennessee hero, David Shelton has humbly said he didn't think about what he was doing when it happened – he just did it; and

WHEREAS, David Shelton clearly demonstrated the courage and resolve of a hero, and his astute actions are clearly deserving of special recognition and praise; 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 hereby honor and commend David C. Shelton for his outstanding demonstration of courage, resourcefulness, and presence of mind, as we join with all the citizens of Tennessee in expressing our admiration and appreciation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer our best wishes to Mr. Shelton and his family for every success and happiness in the future.

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