

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 260

By Stewart

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Roberts White, United States Army.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Roberts White, United States Army, of Fort Hood, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel White, known as Jeff to many, was an exemplary public servant and consummate military professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Jeff White rendered sterling service to his country in the United States Army, most recently as an officer with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters out of Fort Hood, in which position he earned the respect of his soldiers, peers, and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Jeff White was born December 20, 1962, in Ansbach Germany to Colonel James R. White and Lois Roberts White; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the military in 1973, his father moved the family to Tennessee; Lieutenant Colonel White spent the rest of his childhood in Estill Springs, graduating from Franklin County High School in 1981; and

WHEREAS, although he was a talented musician and artist, among other things, Lieutenant Colonel White was drawn to the military life that he had seen his father live; he was accepted to the prestigious U. S. Military Academy at West Point after high school; and

WHEREAS, while receiving his education at West Point, Lieutenant Colonel White became an expert marksman and was invited to try out for the U. S. Olympic pistol team; he earned his "jump wings" as well and went on to become a master parachutist with over one hundred jumps; and

WHEREAS, after his graduation from West Point in 1985, Lieutenant Colonel Jeff White graduated from the Army's elite Ranger and Pathfinder schools; and

WHEREAS, as an artillery officer in South Korea, Lieutenant Colonel White served as company commander for two of the three years he was stationed there; and

WHEREAS, during that time in South Korea, Lieutenant Colonel Jeff White met Lieutenant Jocelyn Running, his wife-to-be; they were married in a military ceremony at Camp Stanley on December 31, 1992; and

WHEREAS, shortly after their marriage, the Whites were assigned to serve at Fort Bragg in North Carolina, and both were deployed from that base to Haiti at different times; and

WHEREAS, following the birth of their first daughter, Jane, Lieutenant Jocelyn White resigned from active duty, having achieved the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel White was developing a specialty in Psychological Operations (PsyOps), and he was assigned to serve in Bosnia next; after Bosnia, the Whites moved to Canada, where Lieutenant Colonel White, who could speak French, served as an exchange officer; and

WHEREAS, following his assignment in Canada, Lieutenant Colonel White was sent to Naples, Italy, where he served at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters; there, the Whites had a son and another daughter; and

WHEREAS, from Italy, Lieutenant Colonel Jeff White was reassigned to James Madison University (JMU) in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, where he served as a Reserve Officers Training Corps instructor; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel White was particularly fond of the people and the place he found on arriving in Virginia; he enjoyed the opportunity to mentor young adults in his job, and he forged strong ties with the local community and his church there; and

WHEREAS, a remarkably devoted Christian, Lieutenant Colonel White initiated the Centurion Bible Society of the Shenandoah Valley to ensure that each of his graduating seniors would receive a Bible embossed with his or her name; and

WHEREAS, while at JMU, he received his promotion to Lieutenant Colonel as well as a new assignment: he was reassigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Headquarters and ordered to Iraq, where he was to head the PsyOps effort in Baghdad; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Jeff White was not only proud and pleased to be able to contribute to the freedom of twenty-seven million Iraqis, he was also quite successful at his mission, according to his superiors; the commanding general who oversaw Lieutenant Colonel White's efforts reported that Lt. Col. White's operation was able to produce more peacekeeping material during his fifteen-month tour than had been produced from the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom up to the time his tour began; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Jeff White's death came most unexpectedly, and in the wake of his sudden passing, many have been left to grieve; when he passed away, he was in the midst of the congregation at Charity Baptist Church in Killeen, Texas, worshipping his Savior in song; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel White was deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of over sixteen years, Jocelyn, and was the proud parent of daughters, India Jane and Victoria Janine, and son, James Jedidiah; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel White is also survived by his mother, Lois Roberts White, his grandmother, Adell White, his brothers James R. Jr., John Stone, and Joseph Anthony White, his brother-in-law and wife, Aaron and Danielle Running, his parents-in-law, Harold and Dianne Running, and many nieces, cousins, aunts, and uncles; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel White was preceded in death by his father, Colonel James R. White, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Jeff White leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Roberts White, United

States Army, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character as an officer and gentleman and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Lieutenant Colonel White.

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