

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 434

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Frank Bryant, Jr., United States Air Force.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Lieutenant Colonel Frank "Bruiser" Bryant, Jr., a courageous member of the United States Air Force who gave his life in service to our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which our nation's finest sons and daughters are renowned, Lt. Col. Bryant was a sixteen-year veteran of the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Bryant lost his life on April 27, 2011, in the line of duty while deployed as an air advisor to the 438th Air Expeditionary Advisor Group in Kabul, Afghanistan; he was thirty-seven years of age; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his most recent deployment to the Combined Joint Chiefs of Staff Afghanistan-Pakistan Hands Program as an air advisor, he deployed in 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Knoxville, Tennessee, Lieutenant Colonel Bryant was a 1991 graduate of Karns High School, where he was a champion wrestler and won the Tennessee High School State Championship in the same year he graduated; and

WHEREAS, he continued wrestling throughout his collegiate career at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where, in 1995, he served as team captain and was named most valuable player; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the Academy in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in general engineering, Lt. Col. Bryant attended undergraduate pilot training and became a T-37 instructor pilot; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Bryant went on to become a decorated F-16 pilot with 3,047 total flying hours, 121 of which were in combat; and

WHEREAS, during his valorous career, Lieutenant Colonel Bryant served at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi; Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea; Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina; and Luke Air Force Base, Arizona; he also served as an exchange pilot to the United Arab Emirates; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, he had earned his jump wings, senior pilot wings, and a master's degree in business administration and management from Touro University; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Lt. Col. Bryant won the 19th Air Force Air-to-Ground Fighter Pilot Instructor of the Year award in 2008, and was named the 19th Air Force Top Instructor Fighter Pilot, receiving the Gen. William R. Looney, III Award; and

WHEREAS, he was a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal (posthumously); Purple Heart (posthumously); Air Force Combat Action Medal (posthumously); Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal, one oak leaf cluster; Air Force Commendation Medal, one oak leaf cluster; Air Force Achievement Medal; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Air Force Outstanding Unit with valor device and two oak leaf clusters; Combat Readiness Medal; National Defense Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Korean Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal (posthumously); Non-Article 5 NATO Medal (posthumously); Air Force Overseas Ribbon (short and long); Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, one oak leaf cluster; Air Force Longevity Service, three oak leaf clusters; and Air Force Training Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Frank D. Bryant, Jr. was preceded in death by his grandparents, Baker and Elizabeth Bryant and Robert and Elizabeth Bathe; and

WHEREAS, he is survived by his wife and son, Janice H. Bryant and Sean L. Bryant; his father, Frank D. Bryant, Sr.; his mother, Patricia L. Bryant; his older sister and brother-in-law, Amie and Bill Whitworth; his younger brother, Raymond Bryant; his niece, Aubrey Whitworth; and his large extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins spread throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Bryant's extraordinary heroism, indomitable courage, and aggressive leadership reflect great credit on himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of this nation's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, Lt. Col. Bryant's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples 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, Lieutenant Colonel Bryant served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional officer and human being, the late Lieutenant Colonel Frank "Bruiser" Bryant, Jr., United States Air Force, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that that we honor the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Frank "Bruiser" Bryant, Jr., a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Air Force.

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

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