

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 486

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lance Corporal Franklin Namon Watson, United States Marine Corps.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Lance Corporal Franklin Namon Watson, a courageous member of the United States Marine Corps 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, Lance Cpl. Watson was a brave and honorable member of the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Franklin Watson lost his life on September 24, 2011, after suffering fatal injuries while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS, a 2008 graduate of Sequoyah High School, he attended Cleveland State Community College, where he pursued an education in the field of criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, a proud member of the Madisonville community, Franklin Watson was a deputy with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department and an officer with the Madisonville Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Lance Cpl. Watson's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country are exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear and 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, he is survived by his mother and step-father, Stacy and Jack Couch; his father and step-mother, Troy N. Jr. and Katie Watson; his grandparents, Troy N. Sr. and Edith Imogene Nash Watson; his aunts and uncles, Valerie and Rick Watson, Norman Virgil Watson, Sheila Watson, Laurie and Tim McDaniel, Norma Renee Watson, Jane and Joe Stakely, Susan

and Darrell Atkins, and Donna and David Bookout; and his extended family, Cory and Crystal Russell and Lowell Russell, the state trooper who took Franklin Watson in at the age of twelve and played a significant role in raising him; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, Birch and Joyce Walker Shell; and

WHEREAS, this valiant American 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, the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Lance Corporal Franklin Watson, United States Marine Corps, 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 we honor the memory of Lance Corporal Franklin Namon Watson, 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 Marine Corps.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Lance Corporal Watson.

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