

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 852

By Summerville

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend McKinley Harding Choate for meritorious service.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the enemies of this great nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our state and nation, the distinguished military service of each and every proud Tennessean should be illuminated, shared, and properly honored, especially those honorable military veterans who served during World War II; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Harding Choate is one such individual who served with valor and distinction during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Choate was born in Wayne County on March 7, 1922, to Vernie Lee and Lura Skelton Choate, the third of nine children; and

WHEREAS, his family moved to Hurricane Mills in Humphreys County in 1926 by two wagon loads, and they moved to Lyles in 1927; and

WHEREAS, on November 19, 1940, McKinley Choate joined the United States Army and completed his basic training in Jackson, South Carolina, before being stationed at Ft. Sill,

Oklahoma, in 1941, at which time he developed his love for horses after being introduced to training them in the military; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Choate was a soldier in the 83rd Armored Field Artillery Division, serving in the battles of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his estimable service, Mr. Choate was awarded the American Defense Service Ribbon, the EAME Theater Ribbon with one Silver Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and, most notably, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his heroic achievement on December 22, 1944, after World War II, in Holton, Belgium; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Choate married Vivian Waters in Corinth, Mississippi, on October 10, 1953; Vivian already had a daughter, Vicky Sullivan Shephard, from a previous marriage, and the couple's blessed union produced four children, William H. Choate, Anthony M. Choate, Barry L. Choate, and Tracy R. Luttrell; and

WHEREAS, at the age of ninety, Mr. Choate is still an active member of society; he is a songwriter and loves music and baseball; and

WHEREAS, his numerous accomplishments aside, he is also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he is the proud patriarch of eleven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren, and his first great-great-grandchild is due in May 2012; and

WHEREAS, McKinley Choate served with great bravery and ability in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Choate performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his bravery in the line of fire and his dedication to preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor McKinley Choate to the full extent of our ability, as he made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the

liberties we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; 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 hereby honor and commend McKinley Harding Choate for meritorious service in the United States Army during World War II, offer our thanks for a difficult job well done, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and happiness.

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