

SENATE BILL 1431

By Green

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,  
Chapter 1, Part 3, relative to an official state  
symbol of remembrance.

WHEREAS, the general assembly finds that there is no specific symbol of remembrance currently designated as the official state symbol of remembrance for the fallen military heroes of Tennessee and their families; and

WHEREAS, after the death of his eldest son in Iraq, Gold Star father George Lutz recognized the need to educate the nation about the precious cost of freedom. His mission became raising awareness about the sacrifice made by military servicemembers who died for their country through the creation and establishment of a distinct and tangible symbol; and

WHEREAS, the Honor and Remember Flag was unveiled nationally on Memorial Day 2008 to recognize the sacrifice of our fallen military heroes and to honor their families; and

WHEREAS, the Honor and Remember Flag is endorsed by veteran and service organizations, adopted by cities and states, and flown by patriotic Americans across our nation; and

WHEREAS, the Honor and Remember Flag is becoming a nationally accepted symbol of remembrance to be flown on Memorial Day and on Veterans Day; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee, having earned its nickname "Volunteer State" during the War of 1812, has long been known for its brave citizens' service in the military; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans have since bravely participated in protecting the freedom of our country by giving their lives in every major conflict; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper to recognize the sacrifice of the fallen military members and their families. The flag shall serve as a visible reminder to all Americans of the

lives lost in defense of our national freedoms. It is only appropriate that the significance of this symbol to the state and to all Tennesseans be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 3, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) The Honor and Remember flag is designated as the official state symbol of remembrance and as the symbol of our state's concern and commitment to honoring and remembering the lives of all members of the United States Armed Forces who have lost their lives while serving, or as a result of service, and their families.

(b) The design of the Honor and Remember flag, created by Honor and Remember Inc., shall be of the following design:

(1) The principal field of the flag shall be red to represent the blood shed by brave servicemembers who sacrificed their lives for freedom;

(2) The white banner at the bottom of the flag to represent the purity of that sacrifice;

(3) The center of the flag shall feature a gold star outlined in blue. The blue star-shaped border represents active service in military conflict and dates back to World War I. The gold star signifies the ultimate sacrifice of a warrior in active service who is not returning home and reflects the value of life given;

(4) The folded flag element below the gold star highlights this nation's final tribute to a fallen servicemember and a family's sacrifice; and

(5) The center of the gold star shall be filled by a flame, to symbolize the eternal spirit of the departed.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.