

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 271

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to recognize the distinguished service and reflect on the life of Major General Charles R. Henderson.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to pay respect to those Tennesseans who have committed themselves to honorable, astute service to their fellow man, their State, and their country throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, one such worthy and deserving native son is the late Major General Charles R. "Ron" Henderson, who dedicated his years of industry to service in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Maj. Gen. Henderson was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant after earning his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee. In 1976, he received a master's degree in management from Central Michigan University; and

WHEREAS, his passion was aeronautics and he personally mastered the flying of, instructed in the flight of, and commanded squadrons of multiple types of military aircraft. Maj. Gen. Henderson held command pilot rating and logged more than 3,800 flight hours in training, bomber, and tanker aircraft; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his thirty-year career, Maj. Gen. Henderson excelled in every endeavor he undertook. He served in a variety of leadership capacities, including holding command of three wings and a combined task force, and held senior-level staff leadership positions in the offices of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff, U.S. Strategic Command, and the Air Staff; and

WHEREAS, in the years following his retirement from active duty on September 1, 2000, Maj. Gen. Henderson dedicated his time and energy to a number of national security-related issues, programs, and initiatives; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Maj. Gen. Henderson entered federal civil service as a senior advisor of nuclear operations, then advised the Air Force Secretary and Chief of Staff. In those positions, he demonstrated again the depth and fervor of his life-long patriotism; and

WHEREAS, of Maj. Gen. Henderson, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Norton Schwartz said, "Both in uniform and as a senior civilian, he epitomized all that is great about our Air Force. He was a man of tremendous loyalty and nobility – a leader who brought calm to the boardroom and the battlefield."; and

WHEREAS, his love of country and freedom was without peer, as was his devotion to his family. Maj. Gen. Henderson is survived by his wife of forty-three years, Linda; their children, Andrew, Robben, and Christopher; his mother, Dolores Faye Henderson; his two brothers; and his six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of this brave and honorable man are worthwhile and lasting, and it is fitting that he be recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and solemnly reflect on the superlative military career of Maj. Gen. Charles R. "Ron" Henderson, acknowledging with profound appreciation his selfless service to protect and preserve the self-evident truths of the United States of America, and express our condolences on his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we hereby extend our sympathy and express our condolences to the family of Maj. Gen. Charles R. "Ron" Henderson.

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