

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 26

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor Roy A. Emison for his distinguished military service with the United States Army during World War II.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedoms, 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, citizens of Tennessee have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against 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 the 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 Tennessean who served should be illuminated, shared, and properly honored, especially those honorable military veterans who served during World War II; and

WHEREAS, ninety-one-year-old Roy A. Emison of Jackson is one such individual who ably served this country as a member of the United States Army from January 23, 1943, until January 6, 1946; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Roy Emison was assigned to the joint 544th Boat and Shore Engineering Regiment, which was formed by partnership between the Army and Navy for the primary purpose of executing amphibious landings; and

WHEREAS, during his military tenure, Private Emison was present at the first-wave landing on New Guinea; participated in the assaults on Morotai Island, Netherlands East Indies, and Lingayen Gulf, Luzon; and was actively involved in the liberation of the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, he served with valor and bravery, and was awarded the following medals: Expert Rifle, World War II Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic Pacific Theatre Ribbon with two Bronze Service Stars and Bronze Arrowhead, and Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star; and

WHEREAS, Roy Emison returned home to Jackson after the war; he and his wife raised a family that included two sons and, for many years he worked for a towing and wrecker company there and retired from that job at age eighty-three; and

WHEREAS, during those years, Mr. Emison maintained his affinity for the military, and he rendered sterling service as the president of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion organizations; and

WHEREAS, his first wife predeceased him, and some years later he remarried. Roy and Mary Nell Emison enjoy a richly blessed relationship and are highly respected members of their community; and

WHEREAS, eight years ago, Mr. Emison accepted employment with Gander Mountain in Jackson and is a vital and valued member of the company's workforce, as he honors his mother's mantra, "You work or you rust," daily; and

WHEREAS, Roy Emison is, indeed, a member of this nation's Greatest Generation; he is a war hero and a glowing example of integrity and character that has shone across the many years of his long and illustrious life; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and timely that this extraordinary gentleman be recognized for his bravery, valor, and sense of duty to his country and his fellow man; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend World War II veteran Roy A. Emison, thanking

him for his military service and for his outstanding citizenship over the years. We salute him and extend to him our best wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

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