

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 618

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend George Edward Buxton York, Andrew Jackson York, and Betsy Ross York Lowery.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has produced few finer sons than the legendary hero of World War I, Sergeant Alvin C. York, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, whose courage and bravery in battle was only matched by his devotion to a better way of life for the people of his homeland in Fentress County; and

WHEREAS, understanding the importance of a quality education, the valiant Sergeant York worked tirelessly, raising private funding, local bonds, and state support to establish the Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute, an institute of learning for the use and benefit of the children of Fentress County; and

WHEREAS, following in Sergeant Alvin C. York's patriotic footsteps of service to the State of Tennessee and this Nation are his three surviving children, George Edward Buxton York, Andrew Jackson York, and Betsy Ross York Lowery; and

WHEREAS, George Edward Buxton York is the oldest living child of Sergeant York and his beloved bride Miss Gracie York, and was named in honor of Major George Edward Buxton, who was instrumental in convincing Sergeant York to go to war; and

WHEREAS, George York attended York Agricultural Institute and proudly served in the United States Army during World War II. The only York child to graduate from college, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Trevecca Nazarene College and was the recipient of an honorary PhD from the Bible College in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Mr. York went on to establish a Nazarene church in Jamestown where he served as pastor and preached for over forty years. He also enjoyed a distinguished twenty-

-year career with the State of Tennessee working in child protection services before taking his well-deserved retirement while living in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, an extremely patriotic gentleman, George York has been a guest speaker at numerous patriotic events across the country and is known to break out singing God Bless America in restaurants across the United States; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Jackson York continues to live in the Pall Mall community, where he and his siblings were born and raised, learning to hunt, fish, and log. He also attended York Agricultural Institute where he met his wife, Helen; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Andrew York became the Park Ranger at the Sergeant Alvin C. York Historic State Park, where he worked until his retirement in 2013, having become an ambassador to thousands of visitors who came to learn more about his famous father and Tennessee history; and

WHEREAS, a man of deep and abiding faith, Andrew York is a member of York Chapel, the church founded by his father; and

WHEREAS, Betsy Ross York Lowery is the youngest living child of Sergeant Alvin York and Miss Gracie York. A 1951 graduate of York Agricultural Institute, Betsy Lowery married her high school sweetheart, Howard Lowery, in 1952. A military veteran, Mr. Lowery served with distinction in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, the Lowerys lived in Pall Mall before relocating in 1957 to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where Betsy Lowery worked at Western Kentucky University until her retirement in 1995; and

WHEREAS, now a longtime resident of Bowling Green, Mrs. Lowery is a founding member of the First Church of the Nazarene in Bowling Green, which she has served as a layman for the District, a Sunday School teacher, a missionary president, and member of the Kentucky Nazarene Missionary Council; and

WHEREAS, committed to honoring the memory of their father, George York, Andrew York, and Betsy York Lowery are all active members of the Sergeant York Patriotic Foundation, which helps preserve and promote the legacy of Sergeant York while working to rehabilitate the high school he built in 1927; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that the members of this General Assembly specially recognize the remarkable contributions of the surviving members of perhaps Tennessee's most patriotic family on this special occasion; 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 hereby honor and commend George Edward Buxton York, Andrew Jackson York, and Betsy Ross York Lowery on their unrivaled patriotism, their dedication to the preservation of the legacy of Sergeant Alvin C. York, and their service to the citizens of the United States of America.

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