

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 538

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend William D. McGillen of Johnson City on his lifetime of achievement.

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, one such individual is William D. "Bill" McGillen of Johnson City, who is a proud veteran of the United States Air Force, the Tennessee Army National Guard, and the Tennessee State Guard; and

WHEREAS, born in Alabama, Mr. McGillen is the son of the late Reverend and Mrs. Clarence A. McGillen, Sr., and is a graduate of Science Hill High School and East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, an exemplary professional in civilian life, Bill McGillen enjoyed a highly successful thirty-six-year career with the Eastman Kodak company, where he served as a Chemist/Market Supervisor before taking his much-deserved retirement in 1987; and

WHEREAS, a veteran with fifty-three years of accumulated military service, Bill McGillen began his military career on August 29, 1951, as a Senior Cryptographer in the U.S. Air Force after completing basic training at Sampson Air Force Base in New York and Cryptographer School at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. He would serve four years during the Korean Conflict with duty stations at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, and at St. Johns, Newfoundland; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his discharge, Mr. McGillen joined the Tennessee Army National Guard on December 12, 1955, as a Staff Sergeant, and would go on to enjoy a thirty-two-year career and rise to the rank of Colonel before his retirement; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service with the Tennessee Army National Guard, he was the first commander of the 130<sup>th</sup> Transportation Battalion with headquarters in Kingsport and later served as commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Squadron of the 278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment after a reorganization of the unit; and

WHEREAS, his last ten years with the National Guard included assignments as an Operations Officer, Inspector General, and Military Support Officer on the General Staff at Headquarters, Tennessee Army National Guard in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, after his retirement from the Tennessee Army National Guard on February 2, 1988, Bill McGillen joined the Tennessee State Guard at the rank of Colonel and was promoted to Brigadier General on July 3, 1990. His seventeen-year tenure with the State Guard included three years as Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade with Headquarters in Knoxville, before he left military duty for the final time on February 16, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McGillen's military training included completion of the Armor Officer's Basic Course, the Armor Officer's Advanced Course, the U.S. Army Transportation Officer's Basic Course, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his distinguished military service, Mr. McGillen has received numerous awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Tennessee National Guard Distinguished Service Medal, the Tennessee National Guard Service Ribbon, the Tennessee National Guard Commendation Ribbon, and the Recruiters Badge; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McGillen is a past president and lifetime member of the National Guard Association of Tennessee, a lifetime member of the National Guard Association of the United States, and an eight-year member of the Tennessee Military Affairs Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McGillen is a highly respected member of Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, which he has served as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Administrative Board; and

WHEREAS, Bill McGillen enjoys the love and support of his wife, Jane Bolton McGillen; his daughter and son-in-law, Linda McGillen Clark and Dr. Andrew Clark; and his granddaughter, Shelley Elizabeth Clark; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his service 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 Bill McGillen to the full extent of our ability, as he has made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend William D. McGillen of Johnson City for his lifetime of achievement and his distinguished military service to this State and Nation as we extend to him our best wishes for continued 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.