

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 216

By Russell

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Clinton Elmer Riddle on the celebration of his ninety-eighth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Clinton Elmer Riddle will celebrate his ninety-eighth birthday on February 24, 2019, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, the only child of Samuel Elmer Riddle and Eva Grace Smith Riddle, Clinton Riddle grew up on a farm in Sweetwater and graduated from Sweetwater High School in May 1941; and

WHEREAS, in November of that same year, he enrolled in Anderson Aircraft School in Nashville, which he attended briefly before returning home to Sweetwater and being drafted into the United States Armed Forces during World War II; he entered the service on December 10, 1942, and attended basic training at Camp Wheeler in Macon, Georgia, where he went to General Clerk School for six weeks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Riddle joined Company B 325<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in time to set sail for Africa on April 28, 1943; in addition to Africa, he was stationed in Sicily, Ireland, and England and was involved in the Invasion of Italy, the Invasion of Normandy, and the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, after bravely serving his country, Clinton Riddle, then a member of Company B 194<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, returned stateside to be discharged at Atterbury, Indiana, on September 19, 1945; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents and abilities, Mr. Riddle wrote a number of poems during his time in the military, and a number of them have since been published; in addition to writing poems and writing letters to his friends throughout the world, he enjoys studying the history of World War II; and

WHEREAS, in September 1994, he returned to tour the battlefields of Europe; while there, he attended the funeral of one of the officers killed in the Battle of Mook whose body was not recovered until November 1993. In May 2005, Mr. Riddle was invited to return to Ireland to speak and unveil a monument at Portglenone, Ireland, in honor of the 325<sup>th</sup> Glider Infantry, with which he was stationed at Portglenone in December 1943; and

WHEREAS, returning home to Tennessee after he was discharged from service, Clinton Riddle enrolled in Stair Tech Electronic School in Knoxville, where he studied for three years; he enjoyed a forty-year career in the electronic field, while also obtaining credits from Carson-Newman College and the Southern Seminary of the Southern Baptist School; and

WHEREAS, the common thread throughout Mr. Riddle's life has been service to others; in addition to his valiant exploits on the battlefield, he served a total of thirty years as the pastor of four Southern Baptist Churches: New Bethany Baptist Church, Murray's Baptist Church, Cedar Valley Baptist Church, and Union McMinn Baptist Church from 1959-1989. He also served as interim pastor for several other congregations; and

WHEREAS, Clinton Riddle has always been dedicated to family values of the highest order. On July 24, 1949, he married the love of his life, Blanche Bernice Montooth Riddle, with whom he enjoyed many years of marriage before her passing; the couple's blessed union produced three children, six grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Riddle has devoted himself to the service of others; Tennessee and the United States have been immeasurably enriched by his many selfless contributions; and

WHEREAS, as Clinton Riddle approaches his eleventh decade, he is making plans to travel to France in June 2019 for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Normandy Invasion; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Clinton Elmer Riddle on the celebration of his ninety-eighth birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

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