

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 256

By Doggett

A RESOLUTION to commend James Gerald Shores, Jr., for his honorable service as a member of the United States Army.

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, the citizens of Tennessee have, throughout the years, been called upon to take up arms against the 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 these 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 every proud Tennessean should be illuminated, shared, and properly honored; and

WHEREAS, one such Tennessean is James Gerald Shores, Jr., who has honorably served this country as a member of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Giles County High School, James Shores entered the United States Army as an interrogator/linguist in military intelligence in 1995; he completed basic combat training while assigned to A Company, 4th Battalion, 10th Infantry Regiment at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the following year, Mr. Shores graduated with honors from the Defense Language Institute/Foreign Language Center and was assigned to the 227th Military Intelligence

Battalion at Fort Irwin, California; he received an honorable discharge in January 1997 and returned home to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in March 2002, following the tragic events of September 11, 2001, James Shores reentered active duty service as a satellite communications operator with the rank of Specialist; he graduated from basic combat training while assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and earned the title of Honor Graduate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shores completed his satellite communications course while he was assigned to the 15th Signal Brigade at Fort Gordon, Georgia; he was then assigned to B Company, 44th Signal Battalion in Mannheim, Germany, as a Tactical Satellite Team Chief and A Company, 72nd Signal Battalion as a tactical satellite hub senior operator; and

WHEREAS, James Shores spent most of 2004 stationed at Victory Base in Baghdad, Iraq, with the 72nd Signal Battalion, and in December, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, in March 2005, he was assigned to the 518th Tactical Installation and Networking Company at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, as a team leader, data team chief, and platoon sergeant; that September, he deployed to Egypt with the 11th Signal Brigade to participate in Operation Bright Star, and in November, he graduated with honors from the Basic Communications-Electronics Installer Course and was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Shores deployed to Kuwait and Iraq for fifteen months with the 93rd Signal Battalion and 35th Signal Bridge (Airborne); he was later assigned to the 15th Signal Brigade in Fort Gordon, Georgia, as an instructor and squad leader for new soldiers during initial training in satellite communications; and

WHEREAS, at the end of 2010, James Shores was assigned to the 160th Signal Brigade as the terminal chief of a strategic satellite facility at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait; he was medically evacuated in April 2011 and spent the next two years in the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he addressed injuries he had received in previous deployments; and

WHEREAS, James Shores retired from active service in the United States Army at the rank of Staff Sergeant on March 12, 2013, and upon his retirement, he returned home to Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, during his years of service, he received a number of ribbons and commendations, including four Army Commendation Medals, a Meritorious Unit Citation, three Army Good Conduct Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, the Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, two Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbons, the Army Service Ribbon, four Overseas Service Ribbons, the Combat Action Badge, and the Marksmanship Qualification Badge, Sharp Shooter – Rifle; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his bravery and dedication to preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor Mr. Shores to the full extent of our ability, as his service in the Army helped to preserve the liberties we enjoy today; 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 commend James Gerald Shores, Jr., for his honorable military service, applaud his dedication and bravery, and extend our best wishes for his continued success and happiness in the future.

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