

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 320

By Littleton

A RESOLUTION to recognize Chief Marcel Coulon of the Ashland City Police Department on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, Chief Marcel Coulon of the Ashland City Police Department is one such estimable individual, who has devoted his life to the preservation of law and order and the protection of his fellow citizens and is taking his much-deserved retirement after forty-nine years in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, born in Paris, France, in 1945, Marcel "Marc" Coulon was raised in the French countryside near Chateauroux, France, and came to the United States on June 5, 1963, aboard the SS *United States* after graduating from high school; and

WHEREAS, learning to speak English by watching television, Mr. Coulon traveled to Minot, North Dakota, where his sister lived, and resided there until 1965, when he joined the United States Army in July of that same year; and

WHEREAS, after completing his basic training, Marc Coulon was stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, until November 1967, when he was deployed with the 101st Airborne Division to Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Coulon was shot during an ambush in Vietnam in 1968 and returned stateside to recuperate in a military hospital in California; after his recovery, he sought to return to his unit; and

WHEREAS, since he did not have orders to go back to Vietnam, he was told he would have to purchase his own plane ticket to rejoin his unit, which he did. He returned to the United

States in 1969 and was re-assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, completing his tour of duty in September 1969, Marcel Coulon received a number of honors during his military service, including the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and many other commendations; and

WHEREAS, Chief Coulon relocated to Cheatham County in 1970 and began his illustrious career in law enforcement with the Cheatham County Sheriff's Department as a volunteer before becoming a paid deputy; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, he joined the Ashland City Police Department, where he accepted the position of Chief of Police; he returned to the Cheatham County Sheriff's Department the following year; and

WHEREAS, on his second tenure with the Cheatham County Sheriff's Department, Chief Coulon advanced from Investigator to Chief Deputy and finally to the position of Sheriff for a brief period of time before once again returning to the Ashland City Police Department in March 1991, where he served as detective and Assistant Chief before being named Chief of Police in 2006; and

WHEREAS, a respected, capable, and trusted leader, Chief Coulon was named the Middle Tennessee Police Chief of the Year in 2013 by the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police; and

WHEREAS, a loving husband, father, and grandfather, Chief Coulon is most thankful for the love and support of his wife, Barbi Coulon, and his four children, two stepchildren, and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Chief Marcel Coulon exemplifies the values of hard work, compassion, and devotion to community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean and diligent officer of the law; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Chief Coulon has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the sincere respect and admiration of his colleagues, his fellow officers, and a grateful public; 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 honor and commend Chief Marcel Coulon upon the occasion of his retirement, extending our gratitude for his many years of dedicated service to the Ashland City Police Department and the residents of Cheatham County and 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.