

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 404

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant Major Stephen Lee Woods, United States Army (Retired).

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Sergeant Major Stephen Lee Woods, United States Army (Retired); and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Stephen Woods was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the son of Charles Woods and Mary Alice Woods-Larkins, Stephen Woods was born on May 13, 1939, in Hugoton, Kansas, at the Mason family farmhouse; he and his brother, Jannell Baudouin, were raised in Kansas, New Mexico, and Texas; and

WHEREAS, upon his high school graduation, Mr. Woods honorably served this country for four years as a radioman in the United States Coast Guard; several months after his Coast Guard tour of duty ended, he enlisted in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Army Security Agency (ASA), Sergeant Major Stephen Woods served two tours and more than seven years in Okinawa, Japan, and three unaccompanied, one-year tours in Vietnam, Thailand, and Korea; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Woods trained at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, and served tours in Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and Hawaii, as well as a number of years at ASA headquarters in Arlington Hall, Virginia, where he was stationed until his retirement in 1984; and

WHEREAS, during his twenty-seven years of service, he received a number of ribbons and commendations, including the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, five Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbons, three Overseas Service Ribbons, the Army Service Ribbon, the

Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Good Conduct Medal (8<sup>th</sup> Award), the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, and the National Defense Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Woods retired to East Tennessee, where he found peace and contentment in Unicoi and Blountville; he loved seeing the finches and hummingbirds at his birdfeeders and the horses running around a nearby field; and

WHEREAS, upon his move to Blountville, he gave up fishing and took up lapidary, creating rock belt buckles in his garage; more than anything else, he loved teaching his grandson and sharing his favorite hobbies and many skills with him; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Woods enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of sixty years, Ethel B. Woods; he was the proud father of Norma Leanne Leonard, the devoted father-in-law of Francis X. Leonard, and the treasured grandfather of Stephen Lee Leonard; he will be greatly missed by Aiko, his Akita dog; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Major Stephen Woods leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sergeant Major Stephen Lee Woods, United States Army (Retired), reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Sergeant Major Woods.

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