

CHAPTER NO. 841

SENATE BILL NO. 2820

By Black, Henry, Beavers, Bowers, Bryson, Burchett, Burks, Cohen, Cooper, Crowe, Crutchfield, Finney, Ford, Fowler, Haynes, Henry, Herron, Jackson, Ketron, Kilby, Kurita, Kyle, McLeary, McNally, Miller, Norris, Curtis S. Person, Jr., Ramsey, Southerland, Tracy, Williams, Woodson, Mr. Speaker Wilder

Substituted for: House Bill No. 2874

By DuBois, McDonald, Russell Johnson, Gresham, Campfield, Hensley, Hill, Swafford, Matheny

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 3, to adopt an official salute to the Tennessee flag.

WHEREAS, the flag of the State of Tennessee was designed by LeRoy Reeves of the Third Regiment, Tennessee Infantry; and

WHEREAS, this flag was adopted as the official flag of the State of Tennessee by the General Assembly on April 17, 1905; and

WHEREAS, our flag (a design of three white stars representing the three grand divisions of the state bound together by the endless circle on a field of blue, symbolizing an insoluble trinity, all placed on a solid field of crimson) waves proudly as the most recognizable symbol of our state; and

WHEREAS, Lucy Steele Harrison, State Regent of The Tennessee Society, Daughters of the American Revolution from 1980-1983, composed a stirring salute to the Tennessee flag, which was subsequently designated "the official salute to the flag of Tennessee" by Senate Joint Resolution No. 63 of the 92nd General Assembly adopted on March 5, 1981; and

WHEREAS, Miss John Bostick, native of Tennessee, state and legislative employee, and first woman from Williamson County to be licensed to practice law in Tennessee, realizing during the 1986 Tennessee Homecoming '86 celebration that Tennessee did not have an official "Salute to the Tennessee Flag", penned such a verse that was officially recognized as such by Senate Joint Resolution No. 23 of the 95th General Assembly adopted on 17 February, 1987; and

WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that this General Assembly honor all Tennesseans who have demonstrated their love of and dedication to this state and of the proud Tennessee flag by writing officially recognized salutes to that banner's continuing glory and beauty; and

WHEREAS, because of the enduring patriotism of Mrs. Harrison and Miss Bostick, this General Assembly desires to make these official designations more formal; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 3, is amended by adding the following language as a new Section 4-1-329:

§ 4-1-329.

(a) The following salute written by Lucy Steele Harrison is designated and adopted as the first official salute to the flag of Tennessee:

"Three white stars on a field of blue

God keep them strong and ever true

It is with pride and love that we

Salute the Flag of Tennessee."

(b) The following salute written by Miss John Bostick is designated and adopted as the second official salute to the flag of Tennessee:

"Flag of Tennessee, I salute thee

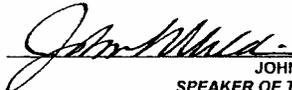
To thee I pledge my allegiance with

My affection, my service and my life."

SECTION 2. Representatives of the Tennessee Historical Society, Tennessee History for Kids, The Tennessee Society, Daughters of the American Revolution and any other recognized group with an interest in Tennessee history or the Tennessee flag are urged to meet and discuss the issue of official salutes to the flag of Tennessee. If the group is able to develop recommendations for other salutes to the flag of Tennessee, or if the group determines there have been other salutes adopted by the general assembly or otherwise generally recognized, such group shall so state in a report to be filed with the clerk of the Senate and the clerk of the House of Representatives.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed: May 17, 2006


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 2nd day of June 2006


PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR