

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 461

By Representatives Matlock, Hawk

and

Senator McNally

A RESOLUTION to name the Tennessee National Guard Armory in Monroe County in honor of the late Sergeant Joseph D. Hunt and the late Staff Sergeant Victoir P. Lieurance, both of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking 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, established in 1887 by an act of the 45th General Assembly, the Tennessee National Guard is a dedicated collection of the finest men and women this State has to offer; always vigilant and prepared for duty, the Tennessee National Guard has proven time and again its ability to protect fellow Tennesseans and Americans and those around the world in need of aid; and

WHEREAS, our State has given birth to many fine soldiers whose deeds of valor and honor have reflected favorably on the Volunteer State, even as they have inspired us all to reach for greater glory; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways, bridges, and buildings to honor the memory of those courageous members of our military forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Sergeant Joseph D. Hunt and the late Staff Sergeant Victoir P. Lieurance, who were brothers-in-arms in 3/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Hunt and Staff Sergeant Lieurance were killed in the same incident while engaged in combat patrol near Al Dujayl, Iraq, on August 22, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Joseph D. Hunt proudly enlisted with the Tennessee Army National Guard on May 16, 2000, and was assigned to 1/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment in his native Sweetwater; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Hunt was transferred to 3/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment on June 14, 2004, for mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III, in which capacity he served as a tank crewman (loader); and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Hunt served with distinction during his tour of active duty in Iraq with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment; his many awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Mobilized Device; Army Service Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard Distinguished Service Medal; Tennessee Army National Guard War Service Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard Service Ribbon; and the Combat Action Badge; and

WHEREAS, this brave soldier is survived by his sons, Caleb and Josh; his sisters, Leslie and Kristen; and his parents, Marsha and Tim Hunt; and

WHEREAS, following a longstanding family tradition of military service, Victor Patric Lieurance joined the United States Army soon after graduating from high school; he first reported for duty on July 25, 1989, at Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he was qualified as a Cavalry Scout; and

WHEREAS, known as "Vic" to his family and friends, he was a courageous veteran of the Gulf War, having been deployed on October 1, 1990, in support and defense of Saudi Arabia; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lieurance truly loved the Army and took great pride in the important role he played in our nation's defense; after completing his tour of duty, he moved to Seymour, where he came to treasure the close-knit community's values; and

WHEREAS, he proudly enlisted with the Tennessee Army National Guard on December 2, 1996, and was assigned to 1/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Harriman; and

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2004, Staff Sergeant Lieurance was transferred to 3/278th Armored Cavalry Regiment for mobilization in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom III; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lieurance served with distinction during his tour of active duty in Iraq with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment; his many awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal; Purple Heart Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Army Good Conduct Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; Armed Forces Reserve Medal; NCO Professional Development Ribbon; Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia; Kuwait Liberation Medal-Kuwait; Tennessee Army National Guard Distinguished Service Medal; Tennessee Army National Guard War Service Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard Service Ribbon; Tennessee Army National Guard Volunteer Ribbon; Parachutist Badge; and the Combat Action Badge; and

WHEREAS, this valiant soldier is survived by his loving wife, Penny; two sons, Chase and Damien; and two step-daughters, Ciera and Alina Hughett; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, Staff Sergeant Lieurance and Sergeant Hunt did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty and to free the Iraqi people; as members of the Tennessee Army National Guard, they proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Lieurance and Sergeant Hunt served with great courage and gallantry, giving their lives for their country and for the cause in which they believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, these brave soldiers deserve proper recognition; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Hunt's and Staff Sergeant Lieurance's dedication to excellence in the military and their love for their respective families, their fellow soldiers, and their country, as exemplified in their sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that they held dear, stand as enduring examples of the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate for this General Assembly to permanently commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of the late Staff Sergeant Victoir P. Lieurance and the late Sergeant Joseph D. Hunt by naming the Sweetwater armory in their honor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the Tennessee National Guard Armory located on State Route 68 in Sweetwater, Monroe County, is hereby designated the "Lieurance / Hunt National Guard Armory" in recognition of the lives of valor and death in military action of the late Staff Sergeant Victoir P. Lieurance and the late Sergeant Joseph D. Hunt, both of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Adjutant General is directed to erect or affix suitable signs designating the Sweetwater Tennessee National Guard Armory in honor of the late Staff Sergeant Victoir P. Lieurance and the late Sergeant Joseph D. Hunt, both of the Tennessee Army National Guard.

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

ADOPTED: June 12, 2007



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED: June 18, 2007



PHIL BREDEESEN, GOVERNOR