

HOUSE BILL 1788

By Kernell

AN ACT to create the David Crockett commission.

WHEREAS, David Crockett is of one of Tennessee's most notable native sons, because of his legendary volunteerism; and

WHEREAS, David Crockett is revered as a pioneer, frontiersman, public servant, statesman, backwoods orator, and most of all, a man of the people, and he will always be remembered as an heroic participant in the Battle of the Alamo, in which he made the ultimate sacrifice of his life to preserve the independence of the Republic of Texas; and

WHEREAS, epitomized as a true Renaissance man, David Crockett engaged in a variety of occupations over his lifetime, including that of farming, trapping, hunting, milling, distilling, and in political and military activities; and

WHEREAS, born in Greene County on August 17, 1786, David Crockett moved several times over his lifetime, while living in Tennessee, he also domiciled in Jefferson County, Lincoln County, Franklin County, Lawrence County, and Gibson County; and

WHEREAS, his record of volunteerism is lengthy and quite impressive: from 1813-15, he volunteered his services to fight in the Creek Indian Wars, a part of the War of 1812, entering the war as a private and coming home as a fourth sergeant in the Tennessee Volunteer Mounted Riflemen; and

WHEREAS, from 1817-20, he served as a magistrate of, and on the town council in, Lawrenceburg, and was elected to be a colonel in the 57th Militia Regiment of Lawrence County; David Crockett was elected to the Tennessee State Legislature, where he astutely represented Lawrence and Hickman counties and was subsequently reelected in 1823, but lost the 1825 election; and

WHEREAS, in 1827, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives to represent the northwestern district of Tennessee; he earned his bid for reelection in 1829, was defeated in 1831 but came back to be reelected in 1833, prior to his unsuccessful bid for Congress in 1835; and

WHEREAS, it was after his final bid for Congress that he set out on his western journey and ultimate destination of Texas, and thus helped to secure Texas' independence from Mexico; it was on March 6, 1836, that he made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom at the Battle of the Alamo; and

WHEREAS, since David Crockett's death many Tennesseans have followed his example; in every major war, Tennessee has led the way in the number of volunteers who have stepped forward to serve their Country; and

WHEREAS, because of his iconic stature throughout the world and his varied and productive life that has come to personify the Volunteer State, it is most appropriate that David Crockett should be memorialized by his home state, the great State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. There is created the David Crockett commission, hereinafter "the commission," to identify ways and means and raise the necessary funds to erect a monument or statue honoring David Crockett on the grounds of the state capitol as a permanent tribute to one of Tennessee's most prominent citizens throughout its history.

SECTION 2. The commission shall be composed of nine (9) citizen members: seven to be appointed by the governor, one (1) to be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, and one (1) member to be appointed by the speaker of the senate. The governor shall designate one (1) member to serve as chair of the commission. Vacancies shall

be filled by the original appointing authority. Members of the commission shall serve without compensation, nor shall they be reimbursed for travel expenses.

SECTION 3. The commission shall consult with the state capitol commission relative to all aspects of the monument or statue honoring David Crockett, and the state capitol commission must give final approval of the design of such monument or statue prior to its erection.

SECTION 4. The monument or statue of David Crockett shall be erected using private funds solely, and no state funds shall expended for such project.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.