

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 37

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Stacey Hopwood upon her selection as the first County Service Officer of the Year by the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should pause to specially recognize those outstanding public servants who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm for the citizens of this great State; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Stacey Hopwood, who was recently selected as the first County Officer of the Year at the Sixty-Second Annual Service Officer Training Session by the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, an accredited service officer with the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Marine Corps League, and the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs, Mrs. Hopwood has served with acumen and alacrity as a veterans service officer for the Montgomery County Veterans Service Organization since 2007 and as its assistant director since May 2010; and

WHEREAS, a proud and dedicated veteran herself, Stacey Hopwood served on active duty as a military police officer in the United States Marine Corps from 1987 to 1993; and

WHEREAS, in her current position, Mrs. Hopwood assists veterans in filing their claims for federal benefits and works to raise the public profile of veterans issues through the use of traditional and social media platforms; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hopwood instituted a weekly Veterans news article that is published in the *Leaf Chronicle* newspaper in Clarksville to raise awareness about services, events, and resources for Veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, her persistent efforts also led to the approval and creation of a Facebook page for Montgomery County Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Stacey Hopwood serves with distinction on the Women's Veterans Summit committee which celebrated its successful inaugural event this year; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her work with the Veterans Service Organization, she still finds time to lend her talents to such notable causes as the Marine Corps League, in which she has held multiple officer positions; the Women Veterans Network; the Women Veterans of America Chapter 20, of which she was a founding member and which she has served as vice commander and chair of the National By-laws Committee; the Women Veterans Advisory Board with the Veterans Affairs Tennessee Valley Healthcare System; and the Humane Society of Clarksville-Montgomery County, for which she has served on the board of directors since 2007 and as president of the board since 2010; and

WHEREAS, she is also a member of the American Legion; the National Association of Department Service Officers; the Tennessee County Veterans Service Officers Association, of which she was elected secretary in 2012; and the Tennessee Marine Family, a Nashville-based military family support organization, which she formerly served as vice-president; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Hopwood is most grateful for the love and companionship she shares with her husband, Bernie, and their two children and four grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Stacey Hopwood epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Stacey Hopwood for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and its veterans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Stacey Hopwood upon her selection as the first County Service Officer of the Year by the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs, commend her for her meritorious service to the state of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

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