

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 135

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to recognize James Halford for his forty-three years of service to the military.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those public servants who have devoted their lives to serving the United States armed forces; and

WHEREAS, James Halford, director of the Fort Campbell Plans, Analysis, and Integration office, is one such individual, who has served our nation's military in various capacities for more than four decades; and

WHEREAS, a Clarksville native, Mr. Halford attended Tennessee State University (TSU) on an Air Force ROTC scholarship; as a junior, he was named professor of military science and then elected by the corps to serve as cadet commander, in which role he led nearly 700 Air Force ROTC cadets; and

WHEREAS, inspired by his father's tales of the Red Ball Express and the Tuskegee Airmen, James Halford became a pilot candidate; however, upon graduating from TSU, he was told there was a surplus of pilot candidates entering the United States Air Force. While waiting for a slot to open, he was selected as a civilian direct-hire because of his stellar academic record, and he worked at Fort Campbell for nine months before being called to active duty; and

WHEREAS, at Fort Campbell, Mr. Halford was assigned to various special projects, one of which was studying how petroleum, oil, and lubricants were managed on the base; because of his excellent performance, he was appointed as a project officer on the new commissary that was under construction, a building that is now known as the Soldier Support Center; and

WHEREAS, before this project was completed, James Halford was told to report for active duty; however, he was granted a one-month deferment to ensure an orderly handoff of his responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halford reported for active duty in March 1975, attending flight school at Craig Air Force Base in Alabama; after flight school, he was selected to be an instructor and relocated to San Antonio, Texas, to attend instructor school; and

WHEREAS, after a brief stint back at Craig Air Force Base before it was closed, James Halford was selected to go to Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C., to become a special air missions pilot, instructor, and examiner of small planes in the presidential wing; he and his wife moved to D.C., where he served as a pilot for various key members of President Jimmy Carter's cabinet, including Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, as well as members of the president's family; and

WHEREAS, though he was appreciative of his career as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force, he had no intention of reenlisting once his contract was up; his wife was pregnant with their second child, and he made the decision to reenter the civilian workforce; and

WHEREAS, initially accepting a position with General Electric's space division in northern Virginia, Mr. Halford was soon recruited to return to Fort Campbell; he moved back to Clarksville in 1981 to take that position so that he and his wife and children would have their extended family as a support system; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halford enjoys the love, respect, and companionship of his wife, Patricia Quarles Halford; his children, Kellee Halford and Patrick Halford, and daughter-in-law Michelle; and his grandchildren, Marisol, Jackie, Christian, Michael, and Zaccari; and

WHEREAS, a firm believer in divine providence, James Halford has always trusted in God's guiding hand, a trust that has underpinned his career as well as his outlook on life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halford has devoted much of his life in service to our country's military, and it is fitting that he be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and honor James Halford for forty-three years of

service to the United States military, wishing him much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

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