

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 205

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to honor Malcolm “Jimmy” Keep for his distinguished military service as a member of the United States Marine Corps during World War II.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee have, throughout the years, been called upon to take 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, while the heroic deeds of Tennesseans have been extolled throughout the history of our State and nation, the distinguished military service of every proud Tennessean should be illuminated, shared, and properly honored, especially those honorable military veterans who served during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Memphis resident Malcolm “Jimmy” Keep is one such individual, who was just eighteen years old when he fought with the Fourth Marine Division in the horrific 1945 Battle at Iwo Jima, which took the lives of 7,000 Marines; and

WHEREAS, in late March, Mr. Keep will return to the island, for the first time, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the battle; his story was featured in Memphis’s *The Commercial Appeal*, along with the fact that he is a tenacious Memphis Grizzlies fan who never misses a game on television but, due to his advanced age, had never attended a live game; and

WHEREAS, upon receiving news of Jimmy Keep's great admiration for the Memphis Grizzlies, the team invited Mr. Keep and his family to sit in owner Robert Pera's courtside seats while the Grizzlies played against the Los Angeles Lakers; and

WHEREAS, during the game, Mr. Keep was visited by his favorite player, Zach Randolph, and he received a standing ovation during the third quarter; and

WHEREAS, while no offering can properly relay our gratitude for his bravery in combat and his dedication to preserving the blessed freedom that is inseparable from our American heritage and ideals, it is most appropriate that we should honor Jimmy Keep to the full extent of our ability, as he has made untold and innumerable sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Malcolm "Jimmy" Keep for his military service, his dedication, and his bravery during World War II, while we salute the Memphis Grizzlies team for demonstrating their gratitude to a loyal fan and a hero of the highest order.

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