

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 387

By Jernigan

A RESOLUTION to recognize Major Matthew Todd Houston on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take great pleasure in honoring those members of the United States military who, throughout their distinguished careers, have served with honor, bravery, and an unswerving commitment to duty; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Major Matthew Todd Houston of the United States Army, who will soon take his much-deserved retirement from active military service after proudly defending our nation; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding officer, soldier, and leader, Major Matthew Houston has distinguished himself while serving in numerous assignments both in peacetime and war; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Major Houston originally joined the Army upon his graduation from high school and separated from military service in 2001; he rejoined the Army in 2006 after earning a commission through the ROTC program at Appalachian State University; and

WHEREAS, Major Matthew Houston rendered sterling service in all his military assignments, which included Fort Bragg (A 3-504th PIR), Idar-Oberstein, Germany (A 1-94 FA), Baumholder (Service Battery 4-27 FA), Fort Sill (Captain's Career Course), Fort Bliss (A 2-29 FA and HQs 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division), Hohenfels, Germany (HHC 1-4 Infantry, Vampire Team, Grizzly Team), Newport, Rhode Island (Naval War College), Fort Campbell (HQ 101st Airborne Division, HQ 101st Aviation Brigade, 3-320th FA), and Fort Bragg (HQ 4th ROTC Brigade); and

WHEREAS, during his military career, Major Houston served five combat deployments to Iraq (2008 and 2011) and Afghanistan (2012, 2017, and 2018) and on a peacekeeping mission to Kosovo; and

WHEREAS, his professional military education included Airborne School, Field Artillery Basic Officer Leader Course, Field Artillery Captains Career Course, Joint Firepower Course, OCT Academy, NATO Staff Officer Course, Joint Fires Observer Course, and Air Assault School; and

WHEREAS, Major Houston was awarded a number of medals, ribbons, and commendations for his service to our country, including four Bronze Star Medals, four Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, eight Army Achievement Medals, the Good Conduct Medal, the NATO Medal for Kosovo, the NATO Medal for Afghanistan, three Meritorious Unit Commendations, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award; and

WHEREAS, honored as the Distinguished Military Graduate in 2006 by Appalachian State University, he has also received the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Expert Marksman Badge for Rifle and Pistol, the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge in Gold, and the German Schutzenschnur in Gold; and

WHEREAS, Major Houston enjoys the love and support of his wife, Julie Houston, with whom he shares two children, Savannah and Dillon; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career, Major Matthew Todd Houston has served these United States with honor and distinction, and it is wholly fitting that we recognize him on the occasion of his retirement from military service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Major Matthew Todd Houston upon his retirement from the United States Army, as we extend our gratitude for his many years of selfless service and our best wishes for his every future happiness and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.