

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 470

By Hodges

A RESOLUTION to recognize Sergeant First Class (Retired) Stephone Duncan on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize, particularly on the occasion of their retirement, those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Stephone Duncan is one such estimable educator who, having distinguished himself as an exemplary teacher, will soon enter into a well-deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Duncan honorably served his country as a member of the United States Army for more than twenty years until his retirement; he then joined the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System (CMCSS), where he has served with acumen and alacrity for nineteen years, instructing and positively influencing students from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Stephone Duncan serves as an Army Instructor in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program at Kenwood High School (KHS); he has taught the freshman classes and coached the Raiders, Air Rifle Team, Unarmed Exhibition Drill Team, Unarmed Regulation Drill Team, Armed Drill Team, and Color Guard Team; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure at KHS, he has taught more than 950 cadets and coached and mentored more than 5,000 cadets, who have completed more than 2,000 community service hours and 400 service learning project hours; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments include establishing the first Unarmed Exhibition Drill Team and the first JROTC Step Team in CMCSS as well as serving as the director of the

KHS Medal of Honor Character Development Academy and the lead teacher for the CMCSS Rise-Up Academy; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished drill coach, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Duncan led the Drill Team to the All Army Nationals for ten consecutive years, and the Exhibition Drill Team received first place honors at the 7th Brigade Drill Meet two consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Stephone Duncan serves on the Board of Directors of the Mount Olive Cemetery Historical Preservation Society, and he supports many community events and organizations, including the Rivers and Spires Festival, Clarksville Riverfest, Black History Month, local churches and schools, and the Salvation Army; and

WHEREAS, an organized professional who has always set high expectations for his students, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Duncan has truly served as an inspiration to his colleagues and his students alike, and his friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Duncan has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his community at large; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant First Class (Retired) Stephone Duncan truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and he should be specially recognized for his manifold achievements on the occasion of his retirement; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Sergeant First Class (Retired) Stephone Duncan, thanking him for his exemplary service as a member of the United States Army, commending his exceptional service to the students of the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System, saluting his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extending to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in 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.