

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 502

By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to recognize Command Sergeant Major Mark A. Breece, Tennessee National Guard, for his outstanding and distinguished military career.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize members of the armed forces who have established distinguished records during their military careers and who have demonstrated great courage and competence in service to their country; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Command Sergeant Major Mark A. Breece, who will retire from his post as the Senior Enlisted Leader for the Tennessee National Guard on July 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, honorably answering the call of duty, Mark Breece joined the 269th Military Police Company in 1978 as a Unit Supply Specialist and became a Military Policeman in 1980; he subsequently rendered sterling service as the Battlefield Circulation Control and Rear Battalion Operations Non-Commissioned Officer for the 269th Military Police Company; and

WHEREAS, in 1986, Command Sergeant Major Breece decided to dedicate his military expertise to the Active Guard Reserve Program; and

WHEREAS, having proven himself to be a thoughtful and dedicated leader, Mark Breece was assigned as the Command Sergeant Major for the 168th Military Police Battalion in 2005; and

WHEREAS, for the past four years, Command Sergeant Major Breece has served with acumen and alacrity as the Senior Enlisted Advisor, expertly overseeing 14,000 service men and women in both the Air and Army National Guard; and

WHEREAS, Mark Breece has served with the courage and conviction of a true patriot through several deployments, including in Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004; and

WHEREAS, a highly trained professional, Mark Breece completed the Primary Leadership Development Course at the 101st Airborne Non-Commissioned Officers Academy; the Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course; the Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Warfare Course; the Military Police Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course; and the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Breece has lent his extraordinary talents to numerous military and veterans organizations, including the Enlisted Association of the Tennessee National Guard, the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, the Quartermaster Corps Association, the Military Police Regimental Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Association of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, because of his unparalleled commitment to honoring our state's veterans and their selfless sacrifices, Mark Breece was recently named Assistant Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished military career, Command Sergeant Major Breece has earned a plethora of honors and awards, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Liberation of Kuwait Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the Global War on Terror Service Medal, the Tennessee National Guard Commendation Ribbon, the Tennessee National Guard Individual Achievement Ribbon, the Tennessee National Guard Service Ribbon, and the Tennessee National Guard Volunteer Ribbon; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mark Breece is most grateful for the love and support he shares with his wife of twenty-seven years, Vicky Lynn, and they are both very proud of their children, Marty Lee and Jennifer Lynn, and their granddaughter, Olivia Reece Ozment; and

WHEREAS, Command Sergeant Major Breece exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable military career, Mark Breece has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his superiors, his peers, and those under his command; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should thank him on behalf of the citizens of the State of Tennessee for his courage and sacrifices to preserve the blessed freedoms and liberty we enjoy today and that our progeny will hopefully continue to cherish for generations to come; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Command Sergeant Major Mark A. Breece on his outstanding career with the Tennessee National Guard, praise him for his devotion to his country, and extend to him our best wishes as he continues his service to the good people of Tennessee as Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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