

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 503

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Metropolitan Nashville Police Department Chief John Drake and his commanding officers for their response to the deadly shooting at Covenant School.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is blessed with dedicated law enforcement officers who risk their personal safety, even their lives, to protect and serve their communities in times of disaster and crisis; and

WHEREAS, it is the very nature of law enforcement that its officers are often the first responders to situations that threaten public safety, and these brave men and women continue to earn our loyalty and appreciation with their heroism and professionalism during emergencies; and

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Nashville Police Department Chief John Drake and his commanding officers served with the utmost distinction in their response to an active shooter at the Covenant School in Nashville on March 27, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the first call to 911 about shots being fired in the building came in at 10:13 a.m.; Metro Nashville Police Officers rushed to the campus, made entry, and began clearing the building as shots were heard coming from the second floor of the school in a common area; and

WHEREAS, a team of officers encountered the assailant, who was heavily armed with three guns, two of which were assault-style weapons, and firing through a window at arriving police cars. Two members of an officer team, Officer Rex Engelbert, a four-year MNPD veteran, and Officer Michael Collazo, a nine-year MNPD veteran, fired on and fatally wounded the shooter; and

WHEREAS, tragically, the assailant's heinous and cowardly act cost the lives of three innocent young children and three adults, but the aftermath may well have been even greater if

not for the heroic actions of Metro Nashville Police Officers, who neutralized the shooter within fifteen minutes of the initial shots being fired; and

WHEREAS, the swift and organized police response orchestrated by Metropolitan Nashville Police Department Chief John Drake and his commanding officers most assuredly prevented further loss of life; officers operated with urgency and purpose to quickly clear rooms and communicate which rooms were cleared and, after neutralizing the shooter, immediately formed security teams and began providing aid to the victims; and

WHEREAS, we owe these men and women a profound debt of gratitude for their selfless devotion, valor, and composure under unimaginable pressure and life-threatening circumstances; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that we pause and honor them to the full extent of our abilities at this time; 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 hereby honor and commend Metropolitan Nashville Police Department Chief John Drake and his commanding officers for their response to the deadly shooting at Covenant School on the morning of March 27, 2023, extending our sincere gratitude for their unparalleled professionalism and honorable service to the people of this State.

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.