

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 504

By Freeman

A RESOLUTION to honor those venerable members of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department and State and federal law enforcement officials for their selfless acts of heroism.

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, two such individuals are Officer Rex Engelbert and Officer Michael Collazo of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department (MNPD), who, along with their fellow officers and State and federal law enforcement officials, have rightfully been hailed as heroes for their actions in neutralizing an active shooter at the Covenant School in Nashville on March 27, 2023, that undoubtedly saved countless lives; 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, we owe these officers 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 Officer Rex Engelbert, Officer Michael Collazo, and all of the members of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department and State and federal law enforcement officials for their heroic, life-saving actions on the morning of March 27, 2023, extending our sincere gratitude for their unparalleled bravery and continued 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.