

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 846

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Herbert Douglas Hardcastle of Nashville.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a gentleman who sacrificed his time and personal resources to honor the memory of brave American soldiers who gave their lives while serving their country on foreign soil; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee general contractor Herbert Douglas Hardcastle of Hardcastle Construction Company of Nashville played an instrumental role in the construction of a memorial at Fort Rucker, Alabama, that honors the memory of the members of the 221st Combat Reconnaissance Aviation Company and ten other aviation companies who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the 221st Combat Reconnaissance Aviation Company and its ten sister aviation companies were charged with the primary mission of search and destroy while supporting American and South Vietnamese troops on the ground and served with distinction in South Vietnam; in the course of events, these companies suffered a high level of casualties; and

WHEREAS, the surviving veterans of the 221st subsequently raised funds among themselves and commissioned the design of a memorial, to be erected at Fort Rucker, Alabama, to honor the memory of their courageous brothers-in-arms who lost their lives so long ago; and

WHEREAS, this endeavor became a complicated construction project that involved several sub-contractors from several states and many crafts; potential disaster was averted by the intervention of Mr. Hardcastle, who essentially saved the project; and

WHEREAS, a former first lieutenant in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mr. Hardcastle was made aware of the plight of his comrades, and in the historic tradition of Tennesseans, he volunteered his services free of charge; he travelled to Fort Rucker, Alabama, personally laid out the site, and served as the general contractor for this memorial at no cost to the veterans of the aviation companies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hardcastle's work, performed at great personal economic cost and consumption of his time, resulted in a glorious tribute to the fallen American servicemen of the 221st and their sister companies at Fort Rucker, Alabama; such memorial is and will continue to be a fitting tribute to those long lost heroes, and the surviving veterans of the 221st are most grateful for the services and expertise of Mr. Hardcastle; and

WHEREAS, to show their gratitude, members of the 221st enlisted the support of fellow Vietnam veterans of Nashville and the House of Representatives to recognize Mr. Hardcastle for his compassion, valuable expertise, and time and attention to the construction of the memorial to those soldiers of the 221st Combat Aviation Reconnaissance Company and its ten sister companies who lost their lives while serving their country in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, Herbert Douglas Hardcastle represents the true spirit of volunteerism, and his patriotic service on the memorial project should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and thank Mr. Herbert Douglas Hardcastle for generously giving his time, resources, and expertise in bringing to fruition the memorial at Fort Rucker, Alabama, that honors the memory of the fallen heroes of the 221st Combat Aviation Reconnaissance Company and its ten sister companies and extend to him our best wishes for much 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.