

SENATE BILL 2159

By Ketron

AN ACT to name the Tennessee National Guard Armory in Murfreesboro in honor of the late First Lieutenant William Eric Emmert.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly desires to commemorate the bountiful life of First Lieutenant William Eric Emmert, a courageous member of the Tennessee National Guard who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Emmert was killed in the line of duty on February 24, 2009, while serving his country in Mosul, Iraq; and

WHEREAS, a *cum laude* graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and a veteran of the United States Army, he served the Army as a counter intelligence agent during tours of duty in Korea, Germany, and Cuba; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant Emmert honorably served for several years as a Tennessee State Trooper in Lincoln County and with Governor Phil Bredesen's security detail, before joining the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) as a special agent in the Criminal Investigation Division; and

WHEREAS, First Lieutenant William Eric Emmert truly loved the military and took great pride in the important role he played in our nation's defense; he was assigned to the 269th Military Police Company, 117th Military Police Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard, Murfreesboro, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, following the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned, First Lieutenant William Eric Emmert did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty; as a member of the Tennessee Army National Guard, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should take the necessary measures to commemorate the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late First Lieutenant William Eric Emmert, Tennessee Army National Guard, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Tennessee National Guard Armory located at 2350 Armory Drive in Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, is hereby designated the "First Lieutenant William Eric Emmert National Guard Armory."

SECTION 2. The Department of Military is directed to erect suitable signs or affix suitable markers designating such edifice as the "First Lieutenant William Eric Emmert National Guard Armory."

SECTION 3. The General Assembly recognizes that the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs shall be borne by the federal government, and this act shall become operative only if the federal government manufactures and installs such signs or agrees to pay the Department of Military the total cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs. Such payment by the federal government shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.