

SENATE BILL 2723

By Gresham

AN ACT to name a segment of State Route 142 in McNairy County in honor of the late Private First Class Cleabern W. Hill, Jr., United States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States armed forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Private First Class (PFC) Cleabern W. Hill, Jr., United States Army, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country on May 13, 1969, while valiantly defending his company's position at Fire Support Base Airborne in the mountains west of Hue, Republic of Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Stantonville, PFC Hill followed the patriotic tradition for which McNairy County and the Volunteer State are renowned by serving with distinction in the 101st Airborne Division; and

WHEREAS, like thousands of others of this nation's sons and daughters, PFC Hill did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and to halt the global spread of Communism; and

WHEREAS, a 1968 graduate of Michie High School, Private First Class Cleabern W. Hill, Jr., entered the United States Army on October 28, 1968, and served his country with distinction in Vietnam from April 2, 1969, until the time of his death; and

WHEREAS, PFC Hill was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster for his heroism in combat; and

WHEREAS, PFC Cleabern W. Hill, Jr., served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he

deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, PFC Hill's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, the McNairy County Commission has petitioned this General Assembly to name a certain segment of State Route 142 in McNairy County, which segment includes PFC Hill's home town of Stantonville, to honor the memory of this valiant soldier; and

WHEREAS, this Body concurs with this excellent proposal; 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 segment of State Route 142 in McNairy County from the McNairy County - Hardin County boundary westward to the most western corporate limits of Stantonville is hereby designated the "PFC Cleabern W. Hill, Jr. Memorial Highway" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Private First Class Cleabern W. Hill, Jr., United States Army, one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

SECTION 2. The Department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the segment of State Route 142 described in Section 1 as the "PFC Cleabern W. Hill, Jr. Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not

render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. The appellation "PFC Cleabern W. Hill, Jr. Memorial Highway" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality, or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.