

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 342

By Stevens

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Tennessee Highway Patrol Sergeant Harold Lee Russell II.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their own concerns to ensure our collective freedom and personal safety; in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals who face daily the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are fortunate to be served by the brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line while carrying out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Lee Russell of the Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP) Aviation Division was one such outstanding and heroic public servant, who gave his life while serving his fellow citizens on August 23, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Lee Russell was born in Jackson on April 19, 1987, to Steven and Cherry Murray Russell; he was a 2005 graduate of McKenzie High School; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Russell was also a 2008 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and a member of THP Class 311; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the THP Special Operations Aviation Unit, Sergeant Lee Russell was highly regarded by his peers and universally admired for his passion, leadership, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, Sergeant Russell is survived by his wife, Mandi Essary Russell; son, Connor Russell; daughter, Tenley Russell; brother, Travis (Bethany) Russell; and paternal grandmother, Suzanne Russell; and

WHEREAS, he is further survived by his father- and mother-in-law, Ray and Trish Essary; two sisters-in-law, Abby (Matt) Mayo and Misty (Robert) Wyatt; three nieces, Demi, Piper, and Leah; and two nephews, Aiden and Easton; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Russell was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Harold and Faye Russell, and maternal grandparents, Finis and Frances Murray; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Lee Russell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, and valor in his public life as a law enforcement officer, compassion and loyalty in private life, and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the too brief yet bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the life of Tennessee Highway Patrol Sergeant Harold Lee Russell II, reflecting fondly upon his character and his commitment to public service.

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.