

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 736

By Black

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 240 upon their receipt of the United Chambers of Commerce Order of the Horse Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 240 are such estimable persons who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of their commendable service to Sumner County, the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 240 were recently conferred the prestigious Order of the Horse Award by the United Chambers of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, established in 1997, the Order of the Horse Award is presented each year to individuals of exemplary character who have rendered service for a lengthy period of time to Sumner County and, in so doing, have improved the quality of life for all citizens of the county; and

WHEREAS, with their founding principle, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another," Chapter 240 was formed and chartered in September 1986, and the members have dedicated themselves to serving their fellow veterans through numerous outreach and community service projects; and

WHEREAS, because, too many times, the brave men and women who served in Vietnam have not been accorded the respect and gratitude they deserve for their courageous actions that ultimately helped shape the history of our great country, Chapter 240 has made it its mission to honor these forgotten warriors by holding Memorial Day and Veterans Day programs,

providing Honor Guards for funerals of veterans and Color Guards for ceremonies, offering a space for each Sumner County veteran to have a brick in the Sumner County Veterans Park in homage to his or her service, and being responsible for the growth and maintenance of Sumner County Veterans Park Wall of Honor, which honors the men and women of Sumner County who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom; and

WHEREAS, VVA Chapter 240 lends a helping hand to servicemen and servicewomen who have returned home from the battlefield, enabling them to build a better life for themselves; with compassion and understanding, the members of Chapter 240 operate food banks in Hendersonville/Gallatin, White House, and Westmoreland for disadvantaged veterans and their families, provide funds for rent and utilities during emergencies through the Veterans Help Program, works with another veterans organization to aid veterans in finding work with the Operation Re-Employ Program, and assist veterans in navigating the veterans health care system and filing claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of Chapter 240 also extend their time, talents, and resources to the children of Sumner County's service members by offering a scholarship program for the sons and daughters of veterans and hosting the annual Operation Santa Claus Program, in which gifts, clothes, and food are supplied to the children of disadvantaged veterans and deployed soldiers; and

WHEREAS, in addition to its own endeavors, this laudable organization quickly gained the reputation of being a leader in forging close working relationships with all other area veterans' organizations and with the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) as together these groups strive to provide the individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our freedoms with all the respect and admiration they deserve; and

WHEREAS, the members of VVA Chapter 240 have distinguished themselves as public-spirited citizens of the highest order and as exceptional assets to the Sumner County community, and they epitomize the ideal of consummate professionals, dedicated public servants, and reliable friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, the members of VVA Chapter 240 are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 240 for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Sumner County and, indeed, all of Tennessee, congratulate them upon their receipt of the United Chambers of Commerce Order of the Horse Award, and salute their unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.