

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1498

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. Russ Frazier of Knox County.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is blessed with dedicated men and women who risk their personal safety, even their lives, to protect and serve others at home and abroad in times of disaster and crisis; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Dr. Russ Frazier of Hardin Valley, a Knox County SWAT tactical physician and the chief of Knox County Rescue, who responds to emergencies across East Tennessee and around the world; and

WHEREAS, as war continues to rage in Ukraine, Dr. Frazier recently received a call to serve Ukrainians as a volunteer with Global Surgical and Medical Support Group (GSMSG), a nonprofit organization that provides medical relief to communities in conflict zones; he has been a member of this group for several years, during which time he has traveled around the globe to serve others during times of crisis; and

WHEREAS, thousands of citizens have fled Ukraine since the war began, among them many healthcare workers; the GSMSG team was recently said to be the only medical and surgical board certified group in Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, though the task at hand is harrowing and perilous, Dr. Russ Frazier feels duty bound as a global citizen to use his training and skill set to provide help to those who so desperately need it; and

WHEREAS, a native Knoxvilleian and graduate of Farragut High School, Dr. Frazier is an anesthesiologist and president of Oak Ridge Hospital's Methodist Medical Center Anesthesia Group; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Russ Frazier has devoted thirty-eight years to serving with Knox County Rescue (KCR), first volunteering with the organization when he was sixteen years old and working weekend shifts while earning his undergraduate degree at the University of Tennessee; after twenty-eight years as a squad member, the KCR board of directors named Dr. Frazier chief in 2012; and

WHEREAS, as chief of KCR, he leads a squad of 110 members who work out of three stations, responding to all vehicle accidents and water rescue situations in Knox County; KCR also rescues individuals from caves and collapsed structures and is available to assist Rural Metro and other fire departments as needed; and

WHEREAS, under his charge, KCR has continued to grow and serve the increasing population of Knox County; his diligence and prudent action have resulted in increased resources in the form of equipment and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Frazier has also served as a Knox County SWAT tactical physician for more than two decades; he has been duly honored for his service in this role by the Knox County Sheriff's Office, which honored him with the Medal of Valor for his outstanding performance in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, throughout his many years of service, Dr. Frazier has been blessed with the love and support of his wife, Kim, and their sons, Jackson and Maddox; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Frazier is a hero and an inspiration to all who are privileged to know him and all of those whom he has so selflessly served; he is the embodiment of the volunteer spirit for which Tennessee is known and one of this State's finest sons and ambassadors; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly wish to extend our gratitude and approbation to Dr. Russ Frazier for his important work at home and abroad; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Dr. Russ Frazier for his heroism in coming to the aid of those living in war-torn Ukraine, extending our deepest gratitude for his work in East Tennessee and around the globe and our best wishes for every future happiness.

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.