

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 366

By Keisling

A RESOLUTION to honor the United States Army 199th Infantry Brigade (Separate) (Light) June 1, 1966–1970, and The Redcatcher Association.

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the dedicated individuals of the United States Army 199th Infantry Brigade (Separate) (Light), renowned as “The Redcatchers,” and its role in the history of our great country; and

WHEREAS, the 199th Infantry Brigade was reactivated on June 1, 1966, at Fort Benning, Georgia, in response to General William Westmoreland’s request for more combat troops in Southeast Asia. It became the only “separate” and “light” brigade to serve in Southeast Asia; and

WHEREAS, during the brigade’s four and one-half years of almost daily combat, nearly 25,000 young men served with the unit. Although fortunate to have intelligent and well-respected officers, the backbone of the 199th was always the enlisted men who made the unit into what it was and into what it is today; and

WHEREAS, after 1968, most Redcatchers were draftees, though there was a heavy sprinkling of regular Army soldiers among them. An overwhelming majority of the soldiers were high school graduates, and a large number of these men had earned college credits or held degrees before induction; and

WHEREAS, the field soldiers of the brigade encountered some sort of enemy contact on a near-daily basis, whether through direct ground combat, sniper fire, booby traps, rockets, mortars, or artillery fire. The Redcatchers returned to Fort Benning, Georgia, where the brigade was inactivated in 1970; and

WHEREAS, The Redcatcher Association was founded to organize and host reunions to bring old friends together and to give all Redcatchers and their families an opportunity to meet new friends within the Redcatcher family, and to render solemn honor to the memory of the 757 Redcatchers who made the ultimate sacrifice while wearing the insignia of the 199th Infantry Brigade (Separate) (Light) in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 reunion of The Redcatcher Association will be held in Nashville, and it is highly appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to pay tribute to the impressive history of service to our nation of the United States Army 199th Infantry Brigade (Separate) (Light); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the United States Army 199th Infantry Brigade (Separate) (Light) for its distinguished record of military service during the Vietnam War, and proudly welcome The Redcatcher Association's esteemed members and their families to the great State of Tennessee.

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