

By: Representatives Bell (21st), Yancey

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
2 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RENDERED TO THIS STATE AND NATION BY VIETNAM
3 WAR VETERAN, DR. EDWIN "ED" J. DEUSCHLE, UPON THE OFFICIAL RECEIPT
4 OF MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDALS FOR HIS DISPLAY OF HEROISM IN THE
5 FACE OF ADVERSITY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
6 VIETNAM BATTLE THAT FOREVER ALTERED HIS LIFE ON MAY 5, 1970.

7 WHEREAS, the Cities of Tupelo and Madison, Mississippi, are
8 proud to be considered the homes of community friend, historical
9 legend, acclaimed minister and Vietnam War veteran, Dr. Edwin "Ed"
10 J. Deuschle, and are delighted to join the gesture of the
11 Mississippi Legislature in extending congratulations upon the
12 official receipt of numerous meritorious service medals for his
13 display of heroism in the face of adversity during the Vietnam
14 War, after more than 40 years, and in commemoration of the 50th
15 anniversary of the Vietnam battle that forever altered his life on
16 May 5, 1970; and

17 WHEREAS, from his humble beginnings in Lee County,
18 Mississippi, Dr. Deuschle, who was raised on the premier tenets of
19 faith, education and perseverance, evidenced an allegiance to
20 patriotism and graduated from the University of Mississippi's ROTC



21 program as a 2nd Lieutenant, and after completing his officer
22 basic course, was assigned to Company D, 1st Battalion, 506
23 Infantry, 101st Airborne Division as an infantry platoon leader in
24 Vietnam; and

25 WHEREAS, on May 5, 1970, while leading his platoon in a
26 vicious battle under hostile enemy fire, which prevented the Huey
27 helicopter transporting his company from safely landing, a young
28 Lieutenant Deuschle and his compadres were forced to jump out of
29 the aircraft to engage the enemy in heavy artillery exchange; and

30 WHEREAS, despite the Huey carrying him being too high to the
31 ground, Lieutenant Deuschle took the chance on making a safe jump,
32 and suffered a knee jam that impeded his ability to walk, but he
33 persevered through the pain and continued to fight and lead his
34 platoon in a valiant display of selflessness, otherwise failing to
35 counter the hostile gun fire would have meant certain death for
36 his company; and

37 WHEREAS, under heavy machine-gun fire from a hilltop, it was
38 soon discovered that Lieutenant Deuschle and his platoon was
39 accompanied by only one other officer, the company commander, who
40 instructed the injured Deuschle to take a few troops and navigate
41 the hillside to dispel the enemy attack; and

42 WHEREAS, using a soldier's backpack for walking and crawling
43 leverage, he and his troops inched their way uphill at a worm's
44 crawl, before reaching the summit, where the soldier assisting him



suffered a fatal wound, and Deuschle would subsequently toss a hand grenade that dismantled the machine-gun emplacement; and

WHEREAS, for two weeks, Lieutenant Deuschle remained in the dense foliage of the Vietnamese jungle battle for his and his company members' lives in hopes of going undetected in an unfamiliar environment, known only to his native aggressors, before he was provided a medical evacuation; and

WHEREAS, the only officer of the Delta Company to survive, Lieutenant Deuschle was initially hospitalized in Japan, then eventually flown back to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where doctors made every attempt possible to repair his knee, but after proving unsuccessful in their efforts, he was transferred to a holding unit before eventually receiving a medical discharge, which proved a cumbersome impediment to his receipt of deserving recognition for heroism on the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, with only his discharge orders, his military dog tags and permanently injured leg, Lieutenant Deuschle began a fight anew, but this time it was not under hostile enemy fire, it was the bureaucratic red tape of the Department of Defense he was battling, in what would prove to be a nearly five-decade long ordeal for official military acknowledgment; and

WHEREAS, after two years of no progress, Deuschle, who had accepted his ministerial calling, surrendered the fight for the medals for which he had been recommended, and focused on the battle of spiritual warfare, to compel as many souls as possible



70 to join God's legion of baptized believers of faith, after being
71 ordained at Calvary Baptist Church; and

72 WHEREAS, fast forward to 2013, the now late Congressman Alan
73 Nunnelee, Dr. Deuschle's nephew made inquiry about the medals and
74 encouraged the military to open an investigation to ensure the
75 conferring of honors, and upon his passing, his successor
76 Congressman Trent Kelly continued the fight to see the medals
77 properly bestowed upon the deserving recipient, who had evidenced
78 the patience of Job in seeing the moment realized; and

79 WHEREAS, now a retired Baptist minister, who served
80 congregations in Bay St. Louis and Noxapater before relocating to
81 Madison upon accepting a post on the Mississippi Baptist
82 Convention Board, Dr. Deuschle, dreamt of knowing the emotionally
83 charged and humbling experience of wearing and feeling a medal
84 became a reality on August 31, 2015, when Congressman Kelly
85 completed the works of Congressman Nunnelee, in good faith, during
86 an awards ceremony in Tupelo to present Dr. Deuschle with eight
87 medals of merit, including the: Silver Star Medal, Air Medal,
88 National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze
89 Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with "60"
90 Device, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with
91 Palm Device and Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal Unit
92 Citation, First Class; and

93 WHEREAS, Dr. Deuschle willingly assumes the patriarchal role
94 of his family, seizing the reins as the unifying tie that binds



95 his family together, as he seeks to always be their provider, and
96 remains instrumental in their support and encouragement, as he
97 sprinkles their lives with nuggets of infinite wisdom and a
98 fervent agape love; and

99 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend and
100 honor United States veterans for their courageous service and
101 selfless devotion to the country, state, community and family,
102 especially those veterans of Dr. Deuschle's caliber, whose light
103 continues to be a beam of inspiration illuminating the path of
104 hope for all he encounters along this earthly sojourn:

105 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
106 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
107 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life, military service, and
108 legacy of community leadership and model citizenship of Dr. Edwin
109 "Ed" J. Deuschle and express grateful appreciation for the life of
110 service and sacrifice he provided to this nation as a Vietnam War
111 veteran upon the official receipt of meritorious service medals
112 for his display of heroism in the face of adversity in
113 commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam battle that
114 forever altered his life on May 5, 1970.

115 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
116 furnished to Dr. Edwin "Ed" J. Deuschle and to the members of the
117 Capitol Press Corps.

