PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 1049

HOUSE BILL NO. 2435

By Representatives Casada, Phillip Johnson, Sargent

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2386

By Senators Johnson, Herron

AN ACT to name a bridge on State Route 6 in Williamson County in honor of the late Warrant Officer Judson E. Mount, United States Army.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways and bridges to honor the memory of those courageous members of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, no person is more deserving of this honor than the late Judson E. Mount, United States Army, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, Warrant Officer Mount followed the patriotic tradition for which the Volunteer State is renowned by serving with distinction in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Warrant Officer Judson E. Mount, Bravo Company, 64th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, United States Army, was a courageous volunteer, who passed away April 7, 2009; just over five months prior, on November 8, 2008, Warrant Officer Mount sustained serious injuries while on active duty near Baghdad, Iraq, and complications from these injuries ultimately took his life; and

WHEREAS, part of a convoy, Warrant Officer Mount's mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle was struck by an explosively formed projectile; he and two of his fellows were badly injured in the blast, while one soldier died and two others escaped unharmed; and

WHEREAS, following emergency treatment in Iraq, Warrant Officer Mount was evacuated to the United States Air Force Hospital in Balad, Germany, and from there he was taken to Brooks Army Medical Center in San Antonio; at the hospital in Texas, Warrant Officer Mount was assigned to the Wounded Warrior Program and underwent several surgeries to repair the extensive shrapnel wounds he had suffered; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his passing, Warrant Officer Judson Mount was hopeful as he anticipated three more surgeries to help him regain the use of his hands; and

WHEREAS, a man of impeccable morals and irreproachable integrity, Judson Mount was born in Memphis on December 1, 1971, the son of Joyce G. Mount and

James E. Mount; and in 1990, he graduated from Chester County High School in Henderson; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his fourteen-year career in the Army, Warrant Officer Judson Mount was stationed at bases all over the United States and around the world; at the time he sustained his injuries, he was on his second tour of Iraq, where he was stationed in Taji; and

WHEREAS, before deploying to Iraq for this second tour, Warrant Officer Mount had been stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, where he lived with his wife, Jennifer, and the couple's two daughters, Shelby and Sydney; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Warrant Officer Judson Mount received many medals and ribbons during his years of service, the Purple Heart for his November injuries being the most recent; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his parents, his brother, Joey E. Mount, his wife, and his two daughters, and they will remember him with great fondness for his faith, his warmth, and his humor; and

WHEREAS, Warrant Officer Judson Mount served with great courage and gallantry, giving his life for his country and for the cause in which he believed, and for that ultimate sacrifice, he deserves proper recognition; as a member of the United States Army, he proudly continued an essential tradition of American society: the concept of the citizen-soldier; and

WHEREAS, Warrant Officer Mount's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of his family, his fellow soldiers and his country, exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly honored the memory of Warrant Officer Judson Mount with House Joint Resolution 481 in 2009; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bridge over the Harpeth River (# 94SR00600131) on State Route 6 in Williamson County is hereby designated the "Warrant Officer Judson E. Mount Memorial Bridge" in recognition of the life of valor and death in combat of Warrant Officer Judson E. Mount, United States Army.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating the bridge described in Section 1 as the "Warrant Officer Judson E. Mount Memorial Bridge". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. The appellation "Warrant Officer Judson E. Mount Memorial Bridge" provided for in this act is for honorary purposes only and nothing contained herein shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any address, or the governmental system for assigning addresses, in any county, municipality or other governmental entity affected by this act.

SECTION 6. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed as requiring the alteration of any previously named segment or segments of any highway described in this act as the "Warrant Officer Judson E. Mount Memorial Bridge ".

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: June 3, 2010

KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 21st day of June 2010

PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR