

1 AN ACT relating to Women Veterans' Appreciation Day.

2 WHEREAS, women have proudly served their country throughout all periods of the  
3 history of the United States, whether disguised as male soldiers during the American  
4 Revolution and Civil War, as nurses in both World Wars, as combat helicopter pilots in  
5 Afghanistan, or in countless other ways; and

6 WHEREAS, women have formally been a part of the United States Armed Forces  
7 since the inception of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, but have informally served since  
8 the inception of our nation's military; and

9 WHEREAS, veterans act with incredible honor and disregard personal well-being  
10 to preserve a gift of unapproachable magnitude for the citizens of this great nation in  
11 American freedom; and

12 WHEREAS, it was not until well after World War II that women who served in the  
13 military began to be officially recognized as veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, women who have served in the United States military are often  
15 referred to as "invisible veterans" because until the 1970s their service contributions went  
16 largely unrecognized; and

17 WHEREAS, there are currently over 2 million women veterans living in the United  
18 States and Puerto Rico, and of those 2 million, over 21 thousand live in the  
19 Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

20 WHEREAS, Kentucky honors the tremendous sacrifices our women in uniform  
21 have made in order to defend our country; and

22 WHEREAS, it is the Commonwealth's duty to honor the memory of our dedicated  
23 servicewomen who never returned home, having made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve  
24 our nation and its way of life; and

25 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth pays special tribute to the valiant guardians of our  
26 freedom who remain listed as Missing in Action and offers our support to the loving  
27 families who hope for their safe return; and

1           WHEREAS, citizens of the United States of America owe an inexpressible debt to  
2 female veterans, and today we ask that their spirit never be forgotten; and

3           WHEREAS, the valor and devotion to duty demonstrated by current and past  
4 servicewomen have paved the way for future generations;

5           NOW, THEREFORE,

6 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

7           ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO  
8 READ AS FOLLOWS:

9 ***The twelfth day of June of each year is designated as Women Veterans' Appreciation***  
10 ***Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.***

11           ➔Section 2. The Governor shall issue a proclamation each year designating June  
12 12 as Women Veterans' Appreciation Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and direct  
13 the executive branch to acknowledge the day in commemoration of the numerous  
14 contributions, sacrifices, and valor displayed by women veterans.