A RESOLUTION honoring veteran service organizations for their efforts toward the betterment of the Commonwealth of Kentucky by helping veterans and their families, and encouraging legislation which would provide tax relief for these honored organizations.

WHEREAS, veteran service organizations are fraternal, patriotic, charitable, and civic organizations which foster comradery, provide assistance, remember those who served and who have fallen, assist dependents, and foster patriotism within communities; and

WHEREAS, there are dozens of organizations in Kentucky whose mission is to help veterans and their families with hundreds of operating locations throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, the brave men and women veterans of the Armed Forces, who have proudly served the United States and risked their lives to protect the freedom of her people, deserve the investment of every possible resource to ensure their lasting physical, mental, and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky’s veterans are one of the Commonwealth’s greatest resources and veteran service organizations help to fill the gaps unintentionally left upon separation from duty as well as the lifelong needs of veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, veteran service organizations provide valued services to our veterans and their families by assisting with transportation to medical appointments, navigating benefit claims, providing suicide prevention hotlines and support groups, research and community education, scholarships, advocacy at the local and federal level, providing military funeral honors, and much more; and

WHEREAS, veteran service organizations also play an important role in their communities and provide services well beyond their immediate membership; and

WHEREAS, veteran service organizations “pay it forward” by investing in young men and women to produce service-minded civic leaders through programs such as the American Legion’s “Boys State” and “Girls State”; and

WHEREAS, veteran service organizations serve Kentucky’s veterans, their families, and their communities, but often face financial difficulties. Year after year, legislative efforts to exempt veteran service organizations from real property taxes have failed; and

WHEREAS, now is the time to give back to those organizations that give so generously to our veterans by granting them tax relief;

NOW, THEREFORE,

***Be it resolved by the Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

Section 1. The members of the Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection hereby recognize and honor the efforts of veteran service organizations across the Commonwealth.

Section 2. The members of the Interim Joint Committee on Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection encourage the passage of legislation providing tax relief to veteran service organizations.