

**CHAPTER 93****(HJR 77)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION naming various highways.

WHEREAS, the recent attacks on our nation have reminded Americans once again how much this great country depends on our Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, it is the Armed Forces that defend our great nation from those who perpetrate evil; and

WHEREAS, at home and on foreign battlefields, row upon row of headstones stand as mute testimony to the courage and sacrifice of America's sons and daughters; and

WHEREAS, thousands of patriotic men and women of Clay County have answered their nation's call to service in times of great need, often giving the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, our veterans deserve our gratitude and recognition for their devotion and service to our nation and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Order of the Purple Heart for military merit is the oldest military decoration in the world in present use; and

WHEREAS, established by General George Washington on August 7, 1782, to honor the common soldier, the Purple Heart is bestowed upon only those individuals who have demonstrated outstanding valor, merit, and unusual gallantry; and

WHEREAS, today the Order of the Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the United States Armed Forces, is wounded or killed, or who subsequently dies from wounds received in any action against an enemy of the United States; in any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the United States Armed Forces are or have been engaged; while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party; as a result of an act of any such enemy of opposing armed forces; as the result of an act of any hostile foreign force; as a result of an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States; or as a result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the United States as part of a peacekeeping force; and

WHEREAS, a Purple Heart will be issued to the next of kin of each person entitled to a posthumous award; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is the costliest military decoration awarded with nineteen separate operations required to make it from the rough heart stamped from bronze to the finished medal, plated with gold and enameled in various colors, suspended from a purple and white ribbon; and

WHEREAS, the true price of a Purple Heart is found in the eyes of the wounded who survived to accept the decoration, as well as in the rows of plain white headstones, both here at home and around the world, where they stand as a testimony to the ultimate sacrifice made to protect our freedom and our way of life; and

WHEREAS, every citizen of the Commonwealth owes a great debt of gratitude to the patriotic men and women killed and wounded in service to their country in times of great need; and

WHEREAS, these recipients of the Purple Heart deserve our thanks, recognition, and respect for their devotion and service to our Commonwealth and our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet is directed to name United States Route 421 from the southern city limits of Manchester to the Daniel Boone Parkway the "Veterans Memorial Highway."

Section 2. The Transportation Cabinet shall, within thirty days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect signs that read "Veterans Memorial Highway" at each end of the route specified in Section 1 of this Resolution.

Section 3. The Transportation Cabinet is directed to designate Interstate 64 from Ashland to Louisville "The Purple Heart Trail."

Section 4. The Transportation Cabinet shall immediately begin preparing the appropriate highway signs naming "The Purple Heart Trail" to facilitate their erection upon the effective date of this Resolution at the Kentucky/West Virginia state line, at the Kentucky/Indiana state line, as well as in each county traversed by Interstate 64.

Section 5. In erecting signs on the highways identified in this Resolution, the Transportation Cabinet shall use sheeting signs in lieu of panel signs.

Section 6. The Clerk of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this Resolution to Secretary James Codell, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Tenth Floor, State Office Building, Frankfort, KY 40622.

**Approved March 28, 2002**