

CHAPTER 125**(HCR 104)**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION requesting and petitioning the Kentucky Congressional Delegation to urge the U.S. Forest Service to replace its recently established guidelines on the care, maintenance, and burials at cemeteries in the Land Between the Lakes Recreation Area with the long-established policies imposed by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

WHEREAS, the Land Between the Lakes Recreation Area encompassing portions of Lyon and Trigg Counties in Kentucky and Stewart County in Tennessee was created by the federal government as a beautiful, scenic recreational area to be enjoyed by many; and

WHEREAS, prior to the land's acquisition by the federal government, generations of families inhabited this land, dating back to the first white settlers in the area; and

WHEREAS, in acquiring the land, families with strong ancestral ties to the land were displaced; and

WHEREAS, from its inception in 1964 and throughout the creation of the Land Between the Lakes Recreation Area, assurances were made to those displaced and remaining alike, and among the most sacred was a promise to provide access to and entrust the care of the 250 or so cemeteries there to the relatives, friends, and cemetery associations; and

WHEREAS, this policy recognized the sanctity of the family by permitting additional burials if space was available, and it remained in place until 2001; and

WHEREAS, the management of the Land Between the Lakes was changed from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service in 1999, and the TVA's policies concerning the cemeteries have been replaced by policies viewed by the families of those interred as an encroachment of their rights to visit, be buried, or maintain the cemeteries; and

WHEREAS, the new guidelines and the possibility that they may be updated or changed every year place the families and friends of those interred or wishing to be interred in the cemeteries in an uncertain position; and

WHEREAS, the broken promises and the state of flux the families must endure have caused considerable heartache and have disrupted the continuity the families shared;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:

Section 1. The Kentucky Congressional Delegation is requested to urge the U.S. Forest Service to replace its recently established guidelines on the care, maintenance, and burials at cemeteries in the Land Between the Lakes Recreation Area with the previous, long-held policies imposed by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Senator Mitch McConnell, 361-A Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Senator Jim Bunning, 316 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Representative Ed Whitfield, 236 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Ron Lewis, 2418 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Ann Northup, 1004 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515;

Representative Ken Lucas, 1237 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515;
Representative Hal Rogers, 2406 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and
Representative Ernie Fletcher, 1117 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Approved April 2, 2002