

CHAPTER 139**(SJR 3)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION honoring the memory of Alvin C. Poweleit, M.D.

We pause in humble reverence to pay tribute to a fallen hero, our native son Alvin C. Poweleit, M.D., who has crossed that final bourne from which no traveler returns.

WHEREAS, in 1942, 70,000 American and Filipino soldiers were captured by the Japanese on the Bataan peninsula of Western Luzon, in the Republic of the Philippines; and

WHEREAS, what history has branded "The Bataan Death March" began on April 9, 1942, when these 70,000 prisoners of war were forced to march fifty-five miles from Mariveles, on the southern end of the Bataan peninsula, to San Fernando, where they were taken by rail to Capas, and then forced to march the remaining eight miles to Camp O'Donnell; and

WHEREAS, during the forced march across the Bataan peninsula, the American and Filipino prisoners of war were treated savagely by their captors, being starved, kicked, and beaten, with many who fell along the way bayoneted; and

WHEREAS, of the 70,000 men who began the Bataan Death March, only 54,000 struggled into Camp O'Donnell because almost 10,000 of their compatriots died as a result of the horrific conditions under which they were forced to march -- the remainder were assumed to have escaped into the Philippine jungle, their fate unknown; and

WHEREAS, Alvin C. Poweleit, M.D., found the courage and the fortitude to survive the Bataan Death March and he dedicated his life in search of compassion for his fellow man; and

WHEREAS, Alvin C. Poweleit, M.D., was a respected physician in Northern Kentucky for decades, never turning away anyone in need of medical treatment; and

WHEREAS, Alvin C. Poweleit, M.D., was a benevolent humanitarian who tirelessly worked in a myriad of charitable endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Alvin C. Poweleit, M.D., was a devoted husband and father of three beautiful children;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The members of the General Assembly, both individually and collectively, do hereby posthumously proclaim Alvin C. Poweleit, M.D., to have been an outstanding Kentuckian and exemplary representative of the Commonwealth.

Section 2. The Transportation Cabinet is directed to name the bridges on Interstate 275 in Kenton County over the Licking River at the Campbell County line in the westbound and eastbound lanes, identified as Bridge Numbers B00052 and B00052P, "The Alvin C. Poweleit, M.D., Memorial Bridge."

Section 3. The Transportation Cabinet shall, within thirty days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect signs at each bridge approach to the bridges identified in Section 2 of this Resolution that read "The Alvin C. Poweleit, M.D., Memorial Bridge."

Approved April 2, 2002