

CHAPTER 141**(HJR 7)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION naming various highways.

WHEREAS, there is no greater honor than to serve your country during times of war and no family has made a greater contribution to protecting the freedoms the United States was founded upon than the Ferguson family from Morgan County; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, G. Barnes and Louella Smith Ferguson sent their four sons, Arlen, Foster, Okla, and Donald, off to defend our way of life; and

WHEREAS, Okla Ferguson served in the Army Air Force in the South Pacific Theater fighting the Japanese; and

WHEREAS, Donald Ferguson served in the United States Marine Corps, and he also fought the Japanese in the South Pacific Theater; and

WHEREAS, Arlen Ferguson served in the Eighth Infantry Division, General Hodge's First Army, where he fought in America's triumph over the German Army in the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, Foster Ferguson served in the Fifth Infantry Division, General Patton's Third Army, which also fought in the Battle of the Bulge; and

WHEREAS, more than half a century after the Battle of the Bulge, history stands in awe of the courage, sacrifice, and extraordinary determination of the more than 600,000 U.S. soldiers and airmen who fought in that epic battle; and

WHEREAS, even though the Battle of the Bulge marked the beginning of the end for Hitler's Nazi regime, the victory came at a horrendous price with over 19,000 Americans dead and thousands more wounded, captured, or missing in action; and

WHEREAS, while serving in Germany, Arlen Ferguson was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Silver Star for gallantry in action and above the call of duty, the Bronze Star Medal, and four Purple Hearts for wounds he received in action; and

WHEREAS, upon being discharged from the Army, Arlen Ferguson tirelessly worked for veterans causes and his personal efforts were instrumental in Congress enacting the War Orphans' Education Act, as well as the Direct Home Loan program under the G.I. bill which lends money at low interest rates to honorably discharged veterans to help them purchase a home; and

WHEREAS, if it had not been for the spirit, fortitude, valor, and resolve of Arlen, Foster, Okla, and Donald Ferguson, in addition to the thousands of men and women who fought during World War II, Americans would not be able to enjoy the many freedoms that today far too many of us take for granted; and

WHEREAS, all Kentuckians need to express their profound gratitude to the Ferguson Brothers and to all veterans -- for their service, sacrifice, and achievements will live forever in our hearts and memories;

WHEREAS, John Conlee is a native and favorite son of Woodford County; and

WHEREAS, John Conlee is a talented musician who has achieved stardom in the world of country music with many hits including "Rose Colored Glasses";

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The members of this body proudly declare Arlen Ferguson and Foster Ferguson to be outstanding citizens and exemplary representatives of the Commonwealth and posthumously bestow the declaration upon Okla Ferguson and Donald Ferguson.

Section 2. The Transportation Cabinet shall name Kentucky Route 172 in Morgan and Johnson Counties "The Ferguson Brothers Highway."

Section 3. The Transportation Cabinet shall, within thirty days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect signs on Kentucky Route 172 in Morgan and Johnson Counties that read "The Ferguson Brothers Highway."

Section 4. The Transportation Cabinet shall name United States Route 60 in Woodford County from the eastern limits of the City of Versailles to the western city limits at the intersection of United States Route 60 and United States Route 62 the "John Conlee Highway".

Section 5. The Transportation Cabinet shall, within thirty days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect signs on United States Route 60 in Woodford County at the eastern limits of the City of Versailles and the western city limits at the intersection of United States Route 60 and United States Route 62 that read "John Conlee Highway".

Approved March 18, 2003