

**CHAPTER 51****(HJR 64)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION naming the Carter Caves State Resort Park's Lewis Caveland Lodge.

WHEREAS, for more than 125 years, the Carter Caves have held special historic interest and natural resource significance with visitors traveling first by horseback and later, in 1896, by excursion trains from Cincinnati; and

WHEREAS, since the dawn of the last century Carter County's community leaders recognized the cave land region's inestimable economic, cultural, environmental and historic value and unselfishly sought to share this treasure with all who traveled to Carter County; and

WHEREAS, in 1902, J.F. Lewis of Carter City bought the Carter Caves for a purchase price of \$45,000, including about 1,000 acres of rugged land covered with virgin forest; and

WHEREAS, in 1924, the Lewis family and other community leaders including W.M. Tabor, R.M. Bagby, Dr. J. Watts Stovall, Thomas S. Yates, John M. Rose, J.A. Bagby and Wick H. Strother incorporated the Carter Caves Company, working to provide greater public access to the caves through a new road and other services; and

WHEREAS, in 1946, Grayson and Olive Hill's Rotary Clubs, in cooperation with the Carter Caves Company, undertook to secure a purchase option for the Carter Caves, and met with Governor Simeon Willis, who promised to receive the purchase and develop a state park when funds became available; and

WHEREAS, Carter County's leaders raised the necessary funds in 60 days, an accomplishment noted in Carter County's Bicentennial Committee publication "Carter County History 1838 - 1976" as "an example of what a community can do when everyone works for a common goal"; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 1946, the Carter Caves Company sold the caves to the Commonwealth of Kentucky for use as a Kentucky state park, in a deed executed by Carter County's Lewis family, including Ollie Lewis, President, and attested by Elwood C. Lewis, Secretary; and

WHEREAS, in the decades since that sale, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has promoted and expanded the Carter Caves park to include, in 1954, the 40-acre Smokey Hollow Lake renowned for largemouth bass, bluegill, catfish and crappie, the lakeside swimming areas, extensive hiking trails and, in 1962, a beautiful fieldstone park lodge with 28 rooms and a 200-seat capacity dining room; and

WHEREAS, the Carter Caves State Resort Park is home to more than 20 caverns, including Cascade Cave, named for its underground waterfall; Bat Cave, the winter residence for thousands of rare bats; and Saltpetre Cave, whose links to historic business ventures is intertwined with Carter County's economic origins; and

WHEREAS, the Carter Caves State Resort Park's cave system is now recognized internationally as a resource for caving enthusiasts, as an educational facility for teachers and students, as a research location for geologists, ecologists and other scientists, and as a vacation destination for thousands of visitors whose potential to share this resource was made possible by the generosity, leadership and foresight of Carter County's Lewis family;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. The Tourism Development Cabinet shall rename the Caveland Lodge as the "Lewis Caveland Lodge."

Section 2. The Tourism Development Cabinet shall, within ninety days of the effective date of this Resolution, ensure that park signs are changed to read "Lewis Caveland Lodge." Future Carter Caves State Resort Park promotional materials, brochures and other documents shall reflect the appropriate name change for the lodge.

**Approved April 2, 2004**