

CHAPTER 201**(HJR 101)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION proclaiming coal miners recognition day.

WHEREAS, for generations, the coal miner entered darkness from darkness in the pre-dawn morning and returned from that darkness to the darkness of night after a long and dangerous day's labor; and

WHEREAS, although progress has been made relating to working conditions and to health and safety, the recent tragedies in West Virginia and Kentucky remind us all that coal mining is still one of America's most dangerous occupations, and

WHEREAS, Kentucky coal miners, in the arduous nature of their work and the key contribution of their labor to Kentucky's economy, epitomize all the best of working men and women; and

WHEREAS, the labor of coal miners produces the fuel that generates over 50% of the electricity that makes the comfort and productivity of American life possible; and

WHEREAS, the labor of coal miners directly contributes around \$153,000,000 in severance tax income annually to Kentucky state and county governments, annual sales tax revenues of more than \$430,000,000 to the state, and indirectly leads to the employment of three Kentuckians for each coal miner working; and

WHEREAS, our coal miners keep the Commonwealth and the nation supplied with an energy resource that produces electricity for the lowest cost, when compared with other fuels, making possible the nation's unmatched prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky coal miners are a vital source of skilled labor with the expertise to produce energy supplies from the vast coal reserves that buffer our country from dangerous dependence on foreign energy fuels;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. That on May 1 of each year Kentucky coal miners shall be recognized for their special contributions to our Commonwealth and the nation.

Section 2. That the commissioner of the Department Natural Resources, the commissioner of the Department of Labor, and the state offices of the United Mine Workers of America are encouraged to work with county governments, schools, other state agencies, federal agencies, and media outlets to establish celebrations and commemorations of coal miners on May 1 of every year.

Section 3. That this Resolution be sent to the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, the commissioner of the Department of Labor, and to the state offices of the United Mine Workers of America.

Approved April 21, 2006.