

**CHAPTER 9****(HJR 34)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION recognizing the work done by Representative Joseph "Eddie" Ballard on behalf of veterans in Kentucky by naming the Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson, Kentucky, in his honor.

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard and his wife have been active members of their community for more than 50 years; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard served his country with dignity as a member of the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard is a self-employed businessman, an advocate for his community and the founder of a local food bank that has relied solely on local donations for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard has continued to serve the citizens of Hopkins County as their representative since 1987; and

WHEREAS, immediately upon becoming a member of this august body, Representative Eddie Ballard turned his attention to the needs of veterans by sponsoring legislation to assist and honor veterans; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard has been the long-time chairman of the Subcommittee on Veterans' Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard has sponsored legislation to construct state-run veterans' nursing homes, including the Western Kentucky Veterans Center in Hanson, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard is a tireless proponent of state-operated veterans' cemeteries and has been instrumental in establishing cemeteries in Hopkinsville, Radcliffe, and Williamstown; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard has advocated for new veterans' cemeteries in Leslie and Greenup Counties; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard has sponsored legislation to create the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, and has co-sponsored legislation to provide special license plates to veterans and to make it easier for members of the Armed Services to register their motor vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard has also co-sponsored legislation to waive public higher education tuition for children of deceased veterans or veterans who are permanently and totally disabled, and to exempt veterans with 100 percent service-connected disability from having to annually file paperwork with the property valuation administrators; and

WHEREAS, Representative Eddie Ballard has been a worthy advocate of the needs of veterans and has reminded us time and again of our responsibility to honor those veterans for their service and sacrifice;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs is directed to name the veterans' nursing home in Hanson, Kentucky, the "Joseph 'Eddie' Ballard Western Kentucky Veterans' Center" in honor of Representative Eddie Ballard.

➔Section 2. A copy of this Resolution shall be sent to the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1111 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; and to Representative Eddie Ballard, Post Office Box 1736, Madisonville, Kentucky 42431.

**Signed by Governor March 4, 2010.**