

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating a portion of Kentucky Route 52 in Estill County in honor and memory of Estill County native and United States Army veteran, SFC William Myron Williams.

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here I am. Send me.'"

Isaiah 6:8

WHEREAS, William Myron Williams was born September 25, 1962, to Melvin Williams and Myra Thomas Finney; and

WHEREAS, William's father Melvin was a member of the National Guard in Ravenna for almost 17 years. It was of no surprise to Myra when William joined the United States Army; she said when he was a child, "all he wanted to play was G.I. Joe"; and

WHEREAS, SFC William Myron Williams served four years with the Airborne Rangers, and following that he embarked on a 20-year career with the United States Army Special Forces where he was a Jump Master and a Communications and Intelligence Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, SFC William Myron Williams was deployed in Operation Desert Storm from September 1990 to April 1991 where he trained Kuwaiti soldiers. Throughout his career, he also served in Iraq during Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Fox, and Operation Iraqi Freedom; in Haiti during Operation Uphold Democracy; in Kenya training troops; and also spent a year at the Pakistan Embassy; and

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2013, SFC William Myron Williams departed these earthly bounds as a result of a motorcycle accident; and

WHEREAS, as a part of the overt and covert operations he was involved in, the family of SFC William Myron Williams had no idea where he was most of the time. SFC Williams was an extremely humble person and never sought attention or glory for his actions; and

WHEREAS, it wasn't until after the death of SFC William Myron Williams that his family and friends learned of his bravery. Command Sergeant Major Dave Betz, who served as a pallbearer at William's funeral, said that SFC Williams saved his life during the four-day battle of the famed Qala-i-Jangi prison uprising. After being wounded on day two of the battle, Betz crawled to safety then collapsed, left for dead. SFC Williams refused to leave the battlefield until he found Betz. He eventually found him unconscious among the dead and wounded. SFC Williams revived Betz and carried him from danger while under enemy fire; and

WHEREAS, SFC William Myron Williams was a hero who truly lived by the Special Forces and Rangers ethos of "I will never leave a fallen comrade"; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career SFC Williams has also received the following: a Bronze Star for his efforts in Afghanistan, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal with a service star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 service stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Medal, Liberation of Kuwait medals from both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, Army Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Service Award, Army Valorous Unit Award, Army Meritorious Unit Award, and the Army Superior Unit Award; and

WHEREAS, SFC William Myron Williams was a member of the Rice Station Christian Church, Clarksville Masonic Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and the Wingman motorcycle club; and

WHEREAS, SFC William Myron Williams is survived by his father Melvin Williams; mother Myra Finney; three sons: Jason Thomas Williams, Jacob Alexander Williams, and Mason Lee Williams; one brother, Christopher Lee Williams; and one niece, Lona Williams; and

WHEREAS, this designation will serve as a constant reminder of the life and sacrifice of a true Estill County hero, SFC William Myron Williams;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet is hereby directed to designate Kentucky Route 52 in Estill County, from the Madison/Estill County line to the bridge in Irvine, as the "SFC William Myron Williams Memorial Highway," and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect the appropriate signage.