

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating a portion of Kentucky Route 69 in Ohio County in honor and memory of Fireman Third Class Welborn Lee Ashby.

WHEREAS, Fireman Third Class Welborn Lee Ashby was born on October 19, 1917, in Ohio County, Kentucky, and he traversed these earthly bounds on December 7, 1941; and

WHEREAS, Welborn Lee Ashby was the son of Otie and Mary Ashby; he was the brother of Martha Christian; and he also left behind many other family members who loved him dearly; and

WHEREAS, Welborn Lee Ashby enlisted in the United States Navy in 1940; and he was assigned to the Battleship USS West Virginia as a fireman; and

WHEREAS, Fireman Third Class Welborn Lee Ashby was killed in action during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; his remains were recovered for proper identification in 2007 by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command at Hickman Air Force Base in Hawaii; and it took two years of DNA testing and confirmation to verify his remains for burial; and

WHEREAS, the life of Fireman Third Class Welborn Lee Ashby ended prematurely when he drowned, following the sudden island attack by the Japanese that claimed 2402 American lives, devastated the Pacific fleet, and spawned the United States' involvement in World War II; and

WHEREAS, Fireman Third Class Welborn Lee Ashby gallantly served his country with honor and distinction; he was remembered as "a jolly guy . . . who was patriotic toward his country" by his sister; he was known in school as "Tiddlywinks" after the popular indoor game in which players flip small discs into a cup or small pot; and he was laid to rest with full military honors at his family's plot next to his parents in Ohio County, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Fireman Third Class Welborn Lee Ashby left a void that cannot be filled, yet the discovery and interment of his remains provides a bittersweet

sense of closure for his family; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has the highest respect for Fireman Third Class Welborn Lee Ashby and is deeply grateful for the sacrifice he made for the freedom of all Americans;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate Kentucky Route 69 in Ohio County, through the city of Centertown, from mile-point 6.79 to mile-point 7.556, as the "F3c Welborn Lee Ashby Memorial Highway," and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect the appropriate signage.