

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating a bridge on Interstate 69 in the city of Hanson as the "Sgt. William Michael Coomes Memorial Bridge."

WHEREAS, William Michael Coomes was born in Chicago, Illinois. After the passing of his mother, his father moved the family to Madisonville, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, William Michael Coomes attended Madisonville High School and was a graduate of the Class of 1959; and

WHEREAS, William Michael Coomes enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on July 1, 1959, at the age of 17, with written permission from his father; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, William Michael Coomes was awarded the Leatherneck Gold Medal for high match pistol and received a Leatherneck Bronze Medal for pistol as a member of the winning platoon in a pistol competition; and

WHEREAS, in February of 1961, William Michael Coomes distinguished himself by attending the United States Marine Corps' NCO Leadership School at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii and in October of the same year, at the age of 19, he was promoted to Corporal; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 1962, Cpl. William Michael Coomes was awarded the Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, on April 25, 1963, William Michael Coomes married Paula Gray; and

WHEREAS, on November 13, 1964, Cpl. William Michael Coomes was promoted to Sergeant and in June of 1965, he was awarded the United States Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; and

WHEREAS, during the Vietnam War, from June 16, 1965, to August 6, 1965, Sgt. William Michael Coomes was defending airstrip facilities against hostile insurgent communist guerilla Viet Cong forces; August 7, 1965 to November 20, 1965, he also defended the Da Nang Special Sector against these Viet Cong forces; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 1966, Sgt. William Michael Coomes participated in Operation Double Eagle in Quang Ngai Province in the Republic of South Vietnam. On

February 3, 1966, Sgt. William Michael Coomes was killed in action, shot by an enemy sniper while at Landing Zone Sparrow, 10 kilometers west of Duc Pho; and

WHEREAS, on January 12, 1967, the Republic of Vietnam posthumously awarded Sgt. William Michael Coomes with the Vietnam Service Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Military Merit Medal; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. William Michael Coomes was survived by his wife Paula Ann Gray Coomes, their infant daughter, father William, step-mother Mary Elizabeth Coomes, two brothers: Donald and Ronald; and three sisters; and

WHEREAS, to all that knew and loved Sgt. William Michael Coomes, the designation of this bridge will serve as a constant reminder of the ultimate sacrifice he made for his country;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate the bridge on Interstate 69 in the city of Hanson in Hopkins County, at exit 47, as the "Sgt. William Michael Coomes Memorial Bridge," and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect the appropriate signage.