

A RESOLUTION honoring and remembering Private Franklin Runyon Sousley on the anniversary of his participation in hoisting the United States flag at Iwo Jima during World War II.

WHEREAS, Private Franklin Runyon Sousley, a native of Fleming County, was a member of the United States Marine Corps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, Private Sousley bravely fought in the battle for control of the island of Iwo Jima as a member of the 3rd Platoon, Echo Company, 28th Regiment, 5th Marine Division; and

WHEREAS, Private Sousley was one of five Marines and a Navy corpsman who were immortalized in Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's photo of the United States Flag raising on Mount Suribachi, just after noon on February 23, 1945, the fourth day of the battle; and

WHEREAS, the flag's location on top of Mount Suribachi was a rallying point for the Marines fighting in that battle as well as a rallying point for Americans on the home front, becoming the symbol used during the Seventh War Bond drive; and

WHEREAS, Private Sousley's honor, courage, and commitment greatly contributed to the success of the 36 day assault on the eight mile island. His service to country and Corps was reflective of the more than 100,000 Sailors and Marines who served on the island, the sacrifice of the 18,070 wounded, and the 6,891 who were killed in action; and

WHEREAS, Private Sousley was fatally shot on March 21, 1945, a victim of Japanese sniper fire on Iwo Jima, less than one month after the flag raising, becoming one of the last Marines to die in the battle; and

WHEREAS, Private Sousley's selfless heroism in battle and participation in an iconic moment of World War II contributed to the United States of America defeating Japan and ending the war in the Pacific. His actions will forever be remembered by family, friends, and a grateful nation; and

WHEREAS, this body hereby honors Private Sousley and all those Marines who

continue to protect our freedoms, and in so doing rightfully commemorates the 70th anniversary of the raising of the America flag at Iwo Jima;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of the heroic service provided by Marine Corps Private Franklin Runyon Sousley during World War II, and in recognition of his participation in the flag-raising during the Battle for Iwo Jima.