

A RESOLUTION honoring Kentucky's native son Captain (Ret.) John L. Thomas for his dedication, commitment, and proud military service to his country.

WHEREAS, Captain (Ret.) John L. Thomas was born June 24, 1937, in Whitco, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, John L. Thomas proudly served in the United States Marine Corps from July 5, 1955, to August 11, 1960. During his service, John L. Thomas was assigned to the USS Mississippi and the USS Iowa and was stationed in Jacksonville, Florida, the Island of Okinawa, and Quantico, Virginia. During his service, John L. Thomas was awarded the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and was promoted to Corporal; and

WHEREAS, on November 1, 1961, John L. Thomas enlisted in the United States Army where he completed Airborne School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. John L. Thomas was the Section/Squad Leader while stationed in Fort Bragg as well as in the Dominican Republic. It was during this time he was promoted to Sergeant and awarded the Combat Infantry's Badge and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; and

WHEREAS, in 1967, John L. Thomas completed Advanced Helicopter Flight Training, became a Warrant Officer, and was assigned to Vietnam with "C" Company, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry where he was a pilot with the scout platoon. While in Vietnam, John L. Thomas was awarded numerous medals for service while in combat and upon his return was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. In 1970, John L. Thomas was promoted to Captain and in 1971 completed his second tour in Vietnam with the 335th Assault Helicopter Company as a Flight Platoon Leader and then later with the 18th Corp Aviation Company; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, John L. Thomas received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with "V" device and 50 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service

Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, U.S. Vietnam Service Medal with 8 Campaign Stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 device, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Silver and Bronze Star, and Palm. Captain John L. Thomas served more than twenty years in active service, and had 3,195 hours of military flight time and 1,396 hours of military combat flight time. He received badges for Expert Infantry, Combat Infantry, Parachutist, Senior Army Aviator, Expert Rifle Badge, and 3 Overseas Bars; and

WHEREAS, Captain John L. Thomas completed his military career with the 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Senate is proud to celebrate the illustrious military career of Kentucky's native son Captain John L. Thomas, whose courage and commitment are a shining example to all.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the office of Senator Johnny Ray Turner for presentation.