

AN ACT relating to naming the Benton National Guard Armory in honor of Representative Richard H. Lewis.

WHEREAS, Richard H. Lewis was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Infantry on May 30, 1960, attended the Army Infantry jump school at Fort Benning, and became a commanding officer at the Fort Knox Reception Station before he was granted early release in 1962 to begin law school at the University of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, although he left full-time military service in order to pursue higher education, Richard H. Lewis maintained his commitment to his country by joining the Army Reserves, where he served in units located in Lexington, Mayfield, and Paducah; and

WHEREAS, Richard H. Lewis received an honorary discharge on August 17, 1982, after 22 years of service and attaining the rank of Captain; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his military service, Richard H. Lewis dedicated other areas of his life to the Commonwealth and his local community. He served as a deacon and Sunday school teacher, as well as a choir member of his church, and served as president of the alumni association and on the Board of Regents of his alma mater, Murray State University; and

WHEREAS, Richard H. Lewis served five terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives, representing his constituents in Marshall County and House District 6 from 1970 through 1975 and again from 1990 through 1995; and

WHEREAS, Richard H. Lewis also served as Governor Julian Carroll's Chief of Staff, as a member of the Workman's Compensation Board, and as commissioner for the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control; and

WHEREAS, during his service in the House of Representatives, Representative Lewis was instrumental in getting the funding to build the Benton National Guard Armory; and

WHEREAS, the 149th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade soldiers from Benton have played key roles in their community, for example, responding to the needs of its citizens during the winter of 2015 when the area battled sub-zero temperatures followed by unprecedented snowfall and in 2009 when they were part of thousands of National Guard men and women mobilized in response to the devastating ice storm; and

WHEREAS, these state missions by the National Guard soldiers located at the Benton Armory are in addition to the many federal deployments made over the past 15 years, including deployments to Iraq in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2011; and

WHEREAS, Benton, Marshall County, and Western Kentucky have benefited in a multitude of ways from the presence of the Benton Armory and owe a debt of gratitude to former Representative Richard H. Lewis for securing the funding of the armory during his tenure in the House of Representatives;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Kentucky Department of Military Affairs and the Kentucky National Guard are directed to name the Benton National Guard Armory in Benton, Kentucky, after and in honor of Representative Richard H. Lewis.

➔Section 2. Copies of this Resolution shall be sent to the adjutant general, Brigadier General Stephen R. Hogan, and the Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff, Boone National Guard Center, 100 Minuteman Parkway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6168.