

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the new bridge on Kentucky Route 30, near the intersection of Kentucky Route 3237 in Breathitt County, as the "Sergeant Willie Sandlin Memorial Bridge."

WHEREAS, Sergeant Willie Sandlin was born to humble parents at the head of Freeman Fork of Longs Creek in Breathitt County, Kentucky on January 1, 1890; and

WHEREAS, Willie Sandlin enlisted in the Army in 1914, first serving on the Mexican border. In 1917, he was sent to France with the 132nd Infantry; and

WHEREAS, the hardships of youth had taught Willie Sandlin the lesson of taking care of himself. Straight as an arrow, with keen, alert, but steady black eyes, black hair, and powerfully muscular, he was a fine example of the sturdy men who came from the Kentucky mountain counties; and

WHEREAS, promoted to Sergeant, Willie Sandlin in a splendid showing of courage and self-reliance single-handedly destroyed three German machine gun emplacements and killed 24 of the enemy on September 26, 1918, at Bois de Forges; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Willie Sandlin voluntarily and deliberately ran into the jaws of death, into danger so great that he could hardly hope to come out with his life. His quickness, his coolness, and his unerring aim enabled him to accomplish what he had set out to do; and

WHEREAS, for that action, Sergeant Willie Sandlin was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on July 9, 1919, the only Kentuckian to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor in World War I; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Sergeant Sandlin returned to Eastern Kentucky and bought a farm on Owls Nest Creek near Hyden. He and his wife, the former Belvia Roberts, had one son and four daughters; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Sandlin, at 59 years of age, died on May 29, 1949, of a lingering lung infection resulting from a poison gas attack on his company in the Battle of Argonne; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the family of Sergeant Willie Sandlin donated his Congressional Medal of Honor to the Kentucky Military History Museum in Frankfort, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, it is altogether fitting and proper that the General Assembly honor the sacrifice and courage of this authentic World War I hero, Sergeant Willie Sandlin, in a tangible way;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate the new bridge on Kentucky Route 30, near the intersection of Kentucky Route 3237 in Breathitt County, as the "Sergeant Willie Sandlin Memorial Bridge," and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect appropriate signage denoting this designation.