

A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Sturgeon/Rice/Hayes Vietnam Memorial Highway in Pike County.

WHEREAS, it is the men and women of the Armed Forces who, since the inception of this great nation, have won and defended the freedoms that we now enjoy, intervening in countless conflicts around the world to stop the spread of tyranny, overthrow murderous despots, and allow the liberties we enjoy in this great nation to flourish around the world; and

WHEREAS, time and again throughout this great nation's history, thousands of patriotic men and women from Pike County have answered their nation's call to service in times of great need; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that we pause to remember three of these sons of Pike County, all from the Freeburn/Phelps area, who gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country in the Vietnam War, a conflict that saw many veterans treated with disrespect and indifference by an ungrateful nation; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Rice was born August 18, 1943, in Freeburn, Kentucky, the son of Johnny and Bernice Stump Rice; and

WHEREAS, on July 7, 1965, PFC Johnny Rice was serving with the 173rd Airborne Division in South Vietnam, when he was killed in action, just over one month shy of his 22nd birthday; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, PFC Johnny Rice was survived by his sister, Evelyn Rice Fannin; and

WHEREAS, Ira Jackie Sturgeon was born September 3, 1949, in Freeburn, Kentucky, the son of Ira Cycle and Essic Sturgeon; and

WHEREAS, on May 3, 1969, Specialist Ira Sturgeon was serving with the 501st Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division in the Thue Thien Province of South Vietnam, when he was killed in action, some four months shy of his 20th birthday; and

WHEREAS, among his many awards and decorations, SP4 Sturgeon was awarded

the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism, and the Purple Heart;
and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, SP4 Sturgeon was survived by his brothers, Charles, Larry, and Allen Sturgeon; and his sisters, Sue Sturgeon Wolford, Betty Sturgeon, and Sharon Ashbury; and

WHEREAS, Danny Martin Hayes was born March 5, 1944, in Freeburn, Kentucky, the son of Jay and Myrtle O'Brien Hayes; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 1967, Specialist Danny Hayes was serving with the 35th Artillery Regiment in South Vietnam, when he was killed in action while clearing a mine field, at the young age of 23; and

WHEREAS, SP4 Hayes was posthumously promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant;
and

WHEREAS, in addition to his father, SSGT Hayes was survived by his aunt, Marie Hunt; and

WHEREAS, it is long overdue for the sacrifices of these sons of Pike County to be honored in some tangible manner, however inadequate the gesture may be;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate Kentucky Route 632 in Pike County as the "Sturgeon/Rice/Hayes Vietnam Memorial Highway," and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect the appropriate signage denoting this designation.