

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Franklin Runyon Sousley.

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

4 WHEREAS, Franklin Sousley bravely fought in the battle for control of the island
5 of Iwo Jima as a member of the third platoon, Echo Company, 28th Regiment, 5th Marine
6 Division; and

7 WHEREAS, Franklin Sousley was one of five Marines and a Navy corpsman who
8 hoisted the American flag atop Mount Suribachi on the fourth day of the battle, on
9 February 23, 1945; and

10 WHEREAS, the image of the flag was immortalized in a photograph taken by
11 Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal and became one of the most iconic images
12 of World War II; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Franklin Sousley died less than one month later, on March 21, 1945, a
17 victim of Japanese sniper fire on Iwo Jima, becoming one of the last Marines to die in the
18 battle; and

19 WHEREAS, Franklin Sousley's heroism in battle and participation in an iconic
20 moment of World War II is remembered by family, friends, and a grateful nation, and is
21 rightfully celebrated by all Kentuckians as a testament to the courage and patriotism of
22 the sons and daughters of this great Commonwealth;

23 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

26 ➔Section 1. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and eternal
27 gratitude of Franklin Runyon Sousley and in recognition of his participation in the flag-

- 1 raising during the Battle of Iwo Jima.
- 2 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
- 3 Resolution to Senator Stephen West for delivery.