

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Colonel
2 Ralph Stephenson.

3 WHEREAS, Colonel Ralph Stephenson was born on August 25, 1921, the son of
4 the late Jesse Henry and Loice Pearl McClain Stephenson; and

5 WHEREAS, Colonel Stephenson proudly and courageously served his country as a
6 member of the United States Air Force. A veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and
7 the Vietnam War, he logged more than 11,000 total flying hours and served in the
8 Tactical Air Command, Air Training Command, and Strategic Air Command as a flight
9 trainer of multiple types of aircraft; and

10 WHEREAS, Colonel Stephenson was the recipient of many military
11 commendations and recognitions, including a Bronze Star Medal, an Air Force
12 Commendation Medal, and a Meritorious Service Medal; and

13 WHEREAS, Colonel Ralph Stephenson, an American patriot and cherished
14 husband, father, grandfather, and brother, departed this earthly life and entered into the
15 kingdom of Heaven on July 28, 2002, and on this day the members of this august body
16 stand in silent reverence for his soul, and in rightful appreciation for the many sacrifices
17 he made on behalf of his beloved country; and

18 WHEREAS, Colonel Stephenson once wrote, "Never forget that members of the
19 armed forces have been hired by you as citizens to do your share of the killing that is the
20 primary function of war. They do not relish the task, much preferring 'a short war and a
21 gentle occupation.' They relive the trauma years after you have forgotten the war. Give
22 thanks that they did your share"; and

23 WHEREAS, in solemn remembrance of Colonel Stephenson's many contributions
24 to the United States military, the members hereby thank him for performing so admirably
25 under extraordinary circumstances, for his service to the tactical and strategic operations
26 of the Air Force, and for risking his own safety for the good of the nation to do our share;

27 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

3 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor Colonel Ralph Stephenson
4 and commend him as an American hero of the first order who defended the United States
5 of America with distinction, bravery, and uncommon valor.

6 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
7 memory of Colonel Ralph Stephenson.

8 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
9 Resolution to Senator David P. Givens for delivery to the family.