

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating a portion of Kentucky Route 72 in Harlan
2 County in honor of Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr.

3 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr. was born in Harlan County, on June 6,
4 1919, to John Bird Hensley and Elva Pace Hensley; and

5 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr. grew up in Harlan County and attended
6 school at Hensley Settlement and Black Star High School; and

7 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr. enlisted in the Army Air Corps on
8 November 20, 1945, in Louisville, Kentucky; and

9 WHEREAS, after completion of all required training, Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley
10 Jr. was assigned to the 825th Troop Carrier Squadron in Hawaii; and

11 WHEREAS, when the Korean War began, Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr. was
12 assigned to the 620th Air Control and Tactical Warning Squadron, United States Air
13 Force; and

14 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr. was taken Prisoner of War while
15 engaged with the enemy in North Korea on July 10, 1950; and

16 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr. was forced to march to North Korea on
17 the Tiger Death March and died while a prisoner during the march near Manpo, North
18 Korea, on October 31, 1950; and

19 WHEREAS, during the attempt at repatriation, the Ground Air Control Unit was cut
20 off by a North Korean roadblock and Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr.'s remains were
21 never recovered; and

22 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr. has a memorial at the National
23 Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, at Punchbowl Crater, in Honolulu, Hawaii; and

24 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr. was awarded the Bronze Star with Oak
25 Leaf Cluster, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations
26 Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea War
27 Service Medal; and

1 WHEREAS, the General Assembly sees fit to honor the bravery and sacrifice of
2 Staff Sergeant Bird Hensley Jr. by designating a roadway in his honor and memory;

3 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

5 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate the portion of Kentucky
6 Route 72, in Harlan County, from mile point 0 to mile point 2, as the "Staff Sergeant Bird
7 Hensley Jr. Missing in Action Korean War Veteran Memorial Highway" and shall, within
8 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect the appropriate signage. This
9 designation shall supersede any previous honorary designation of this section of highway.