

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the bridge on Kentucky Highway 61 at the
2 LaRue County and Hardin County line in honor of Master Chief Petty Officer Carl Maxie
3 Brashear.

4 WHEREAS, Kentucky's native son, Carl M. Brashear, was born January 19, 1931,
5 in Tonieville, Kentucky. Having obtained only a seventh grade education, he quit school
6 to help his father on the farm, but always aspired to be something more; and

7 WHEREAS, shortly after the desegregation of the United States Military, Carl M.
8 Brashear, at the age of 17, enlisted with the United States Navy in February of 1948 after
9 first being denied by the Army. For six years he served as a steward until he was admitted
10 into the Navy Diving School after years of applying and submitting more than one
11 hundred letters for admission. He spent almost ten years working as a Navy salvage diver
12 as he worked towards becoming a first-class diver, carrying out missions deep under the
13 sea; and

14 WHEREAS, after only two years working as a first-class diver, Carl M. Brashear
15 was injured in a mission to recover a hydrogen bomb off the coast of Spain. Following a
16 leg amputation procedure, he refused to accept an honorable discharge, but rather chose
17 to continue his service and transferred himself back to diving school so he could train to
18 become a Master Diver; and

19 WHEREAS, Carl M. Brashear exercised persistence, discipline, and diligence
20 throughout his life and career to become the first African-American Master Diver in the
21 United States Navy and the first Navy diver to be restored to full active duty as an
22 amputee, and upon retirement achieved the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer, the
23 highest designation for Navy enlisted personnel; and

24 WHEREAS, in 2002, Carl M. Brashear was inducted into the Gallery of Great
25 Black Kentuckians; and

26 WHEREAS, the General Assembly sees fit to recognize the memory and great
27 legacy of Carl M. Brashear by naming a bridge in his honor;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

3 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet is hereby directed to honor Carl M.
4 Brashear by erecting signs on Kentucky Highway 61 at the LaRue County and Hardin
5 County line that read "Master Chief Petty Officer Carl Maxie Brashear Memorial
6 Bridge." The sign shall be erected within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution.