

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Jack Baker, a 98-year-old veteran who served in First
2 Army, America's first and oldest field army, in conjunction with the unit's 100th
3 anniversary.

4 WHEREAS, First Army, America's first and oldest field army, was established as
5 the United States entered World War I and played major roles in both world wars; and

6 WHEREAS, in conjunction with the unit's 100th birthday this year, First Army has
7 been paying tribute to outstanding soldiers from its storied lineage; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Jack Baker wore the First Army patch as a young private after
9 being drafted into the war and participated in virtually every critical battle of World War
10 II involving First Army; and

11 WHEREAS, under the command of the great General Omar Bradley, First Army
12 was tasked with overseeing the entire D-Day operation at Normandy, France. Mr. Baker
13 landed at Sector Dog Green on Omaha Beach and fought through the Cherbourg Forest.
14 He was in the critical fight at St. Lo and at Falaise Gap when the Germans collapsed and
15 surrendered en masse; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker, with First Army, was among the first United States troops
17 to enter and liberate Paris. Mr. Baker then went on, serving through the Battle of Aachen,
18 the Battle of Hurtgen Forest, and the Battle of the Bulge, and was present when the
19 United States crossed the Siegfried Line as the European portion of the war ground to an
20 end. Mr. Baker never sustained an injury despite an error that pushed him forward into
21 the fight without ever attending boot camp; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Baker was awarded five Bronze Stars, the World War II Victory
23 Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Army Good Conduct
24 Medal, and the Army Marksmanship Badge; and

25 WHEREAS, last summer Mr. Baker was approved for the French Legion of Honor,
26 that nation's highest military award and the equivalent of our Medal of Honor;

27 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

3 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives salutes Jack Baker for his service to
4 his country and to the Commonwealth as a distinguished member of the United States
5 First Army.

6 ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
7 copy of this Resolution to Representative Jill York for delivery to Jack Baker.