

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the placement of a sign on the Country Music
2 Highway in Pike County in honor of Jack Adkins.

3 WHEREAS, Jack Adkins was born June 10, 1922, in Regina, Kentucky. He was the
4 youngest of 8 children; and

5 WHEREAS, when Jack Adkins was two years old, his father died in West Virginia
6 of poisoning. He knew hard times as a child; and

7 WHEREAS, at the age of 12, Jack Adkins acquired his first guitar by trading a .22
8 caliber rifle and a bushel of corn for it; and

9 WHEREAS, when Jack Adkins was 16 years old, his mother passed away. Jack
10 drifted around after this, later earning him the name "Hobo"; and

11 WHEREAS, Jack Adkins spent a few months in the Civilian Conservation Corps
12 during the depression. He worked in the coal mines long enough to know he wanted to do
13 something else. He was later a carpenter, and he was once employed by a gas company;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Jack Adkins chose to serve this great country by becoming a member
16 of the United States Navy, where he was stationed in Corpus Christi, Texas; and

17 WHEREAS, sometime after his service in the Navy, Jack Adkins started playing the
18 guitar professionally. He traveled the tri-state area of Kentucky, Virginia, and West
19 Virginia. He had a weekly live show at WLSI in Pikeville, where he became acquainted
20 with the Lonesome Pine Fiddlers; and

21 WHEREAS, Jack Adkins is known for his group, Hobo Jack and his Kentucky Pals.
22 The Kentucky Pals consisted of Corbett Newsome, Estil Stewart, and Walt Hensley; and

23 WHEREAS, Hobo Jack and his Kentucky Pals played a lot of square dances and pie
24 suppers; and

25 WHEREAS, Jack Adkins also played at WNKY in Neon, WTCW in Whitesburg,
26 WPKE in Pikeville, and WPRT in Prestonsburg; and

27 WHEREAS, Jack Adkins would often travel to Nashville, Tennessee, to perform at

1 the Ernest Tubb Record Shop while being broadcast over WSM. He also was a guest
2 artist at the Grand Ole Opry; and

3 WHEREAS, Jack Adkins is memorable for his song "Kentucky School Bus" which
4 is about a tragic 1958 accident where 26 children and the bus driver died when the bus
5 plunged into the river in Floyd County. The song is still being played today, not only in
6 the United States, but in places as far away as Japan; and

7 WHEREAS, in the 1960s, Jack Adkins relocated to Cincinnati and opened a
8 recording studio; and

9 WHEREAS, in 1975, Jack Adkins returned to Elkhorn City and opened a small
10 studio and record shop; and

11 WHEREAS, Jack Adkins has written over 300 songs in his lifetime. He became an
12 Old Regular Baptist preacher and gave up secular music. He focused on writing and
13 recording gospel music; and

14 WHEREAS, on June 2, 1977, Jack Adkins traversed these earthly bounds at the
15 Methodist Hospital in Pikeville due to heart failure. He never knew that artists such as
16 Ricky Skaggs and Alison Krauss would end up recording his songs. His work has been
17 included in several anthology recordings, used in a documentary on deep coal mining, and
18 by various churches;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

21 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall honor the life and accomplishments
22 of Jack Adkins by including him on the Country Music Highway on United States Route
23 23 in Pike County, and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect
24 appropriate signs.