

1 A RESOLUTION remembering Staff Sergeant John W. Kannapel and the
2 circumstances surrounding his crew that was lost on a mission in the Pacific Theater in
3 World War II.

4 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant John W. Kannapel enlisted in the United States Army
5 in Louisville, Kentucky, on September 4, 1942; and

6 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Kannapel served with the United States Army Air
7 Force's 319th Bombardment Squadron, 90th Bombardment Group, in the Pacific Theater
8 during World War II; and

9 WHEREAS, on February 22, 1944, Staff Sergeant Kannapel was a gunner on a B-
10 24 Liberator, *en route* to a bombing mission in Hollandia; and

11 WHEREAS, the mission was undertaken at night, and weather had been poor in the
12 area for a month. Rain and heavy cloud cover made sighting and aiming at targets
13 virtually impossible; and

14 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Kannapel and nine other men in his squadron were
15 never seen again. The squadron's unit history would note "the last that was seen...of the
16 crew [were the] running lights fading away in the long night blackness of the Markham
17 Valley"; and

18 WHEREAS, even though no sign of the plane was ever seen after the night of
19 February 22, seven of the men were declared dead in March 1946, and the other three
20 were declared dead in July 1946; and

21 WHEREAS, Staff Sergeant Kannapel served his country with honor and distinction.
22 He received the Air Medal and the Purple Heart for his service, and his name appears on
23 the Walls of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has the highest respect for Staff
26 Sergeant John W. Kannapel, and is deeply grateful for the ultimate sacrifice he made for
27 all Americans;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

4 ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives expresses its profound appreciation for
5 the service of Staff Sergeant John W. Kannapel, and extends deepest gratitude for his
6 extraordinary service to this nation.

7 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
8 honor and loving memory of Staff Sergeant John W. Kannapel.

9 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
10 copy of this Resolution to Representative Dean Schamore.