

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Fred Stout.

2 WHEREAS, the citizens of this Commonwealth rightfully appreciate the sacrifices
3 those men and women of the United States Armed Forces have made over the generations
4 to ensure our freedom; and

5 WHEREAS, Fred Stout, a native of Taylorsville, Kentucky, is one such Kentuckian;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Fred Stout was born on February 26, 1894, to the late Charles and
8 Anna Stout; and

9 WHEREAS, Fred Stout began his military service with the United States Army at
10 Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville, and as a black man he was unsure if he would ever
11 see combat; and

12 WHEREAS, Fred Stout was assigned to an all-black unit, the 369th Infantry, and,
13 because the French had suffered heavy casualties, the unit was sent by General John
14 Pershing to the front lines; and

15 WHEREAS, for two weeks in September and October 1918, the unit participated in
16 the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, the largest United States-led operation of World War I;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Fred Stout's unit, which became known as the Harlem Hellfighters
19 because it consisted of many all-black New York National Guard troops, remained on the
20 front for 191 days, longer than any other U.S. unit; and

21 WHEREAS, the unit suffered more than 1,500 casualties; and

22 WHEREAS, even though Fred Stout bravely served his country during combat, he
23 would fall ill after the war, and spent the last of his days suffering from tuberculosis and
24 shell shock; and

25 WHEREAS, Fred Stout died on July 2, 1919, and was buried in his beloved
26 Taylorsville; and

27 WHEREAS, over the years many of the black graves in the portion of the cemetery

1 where Fred Stout is buried have washed away, and American Veterans (AMVETS) is
2 asking for the public's help in obtaining a military headstone to commemorate the service
3 of this great Kentuckian;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

5 *Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the*
6 *Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

7 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives hereby honor Fred
8 Stout, posthumously thank him for his courageous service during World War I, and
9 acknowledge the work of AMVETS and other organizations for all they have done to
10 celebrate the life of this American hero.

11 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
12 honor of Fred Stout.

13 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a
14 copy of this Resolution to Representative James Tipton.