

1           A RESOLUTION honoring the 138th Field Artillery on the 50th Anniversary of the  
2 attack on Firebase Tomahawk in the Republic of Vietnam.

3           WHEREAS, on April 19, 1968, the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery with units  
4 in Louisville, Bardstown, Elizabethtown, and Carrollton, were ordered to active duty by  
5 President Lyndon B. Johnson; and

6           WHEREAS, among the 24,500 men ordered to active duty in 88 units across the  
7 United states were 580 Kentucky Guardsmen and 750 Kentucky Air Guardsmen; and

8           WHEREAS, the Kentucky men showed much spirit, as indicated by their disregard  
9 for a Department of Defense policy, which disallowed two brothers serving together in a  
10 combat zone. The 2nd Battalion had numerous pairs of brothers serving in combat, as  
11 well as many who had brothers serving with the U.S. Regulars in South Vietnam. Such  
12 concern truly brought out the embedded motto of Kentuckians, "United We Stand,  
13 Divided We Fall"; and

14           WHEREAS, the evening of June 19, 1969, was a quiet one for Charlie Battery on  
15 Tomahawk Hill. There had been few attacks by the enemy in the previous days and fire  
16 missions were at a minimum; and

17           WHEREAS, approximately 150 North Vietnamese Army (NVA) sappers were  
18 amassing outside the perimeter of the compound. Twenty-two infantrymen from the 101st  
19 Airborne Division were manning the perimeter. At approximately 1:45 a.m. about 75 of  
20 the sappers, with satchel charges strapped to their bodies and carrying shoulder-firing  
21 rocket launchers, proceeded to snake through the barbed concertina wire barricade.  
22 Supported by a mortar unit, the attackers completely overran the defending infantry,  
23 killing and wounding most of them; and

24           WHEREAS, a soldier from Bardstown shouted the first alarm. The sappers threw  
25 satchel charges into the bunkers, killing and wounding many. The wounded as well as the  
26 unharmed fought back with every ounce of life to drive the NVA from the firebase; and

27           WHEREAS, at the same time, other units of the Kentucky Guard at other firebases

1 were shelled by the NVA so that they could provide little or no fire for Charlie Battery;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the sappers delivered approximately 150 satchel charges and rocket  
4 propelled grenades. After destroying an ammunition storage area, three howitzers, nine  
5 bunkers, the mess hall, dining tent, maintenance building, four ammunition carriers, and  
6 several vehicles, the sappers were forced to retreat. Cobra gunships zeroed in on the NVA  
7 position and forced the surviving NVA sappers to run for their lives; and

8 WHEREAS, the enemy felled nine Kentucky Guardsmen, but sustained twenty-  
9 three casualties of their own; and

10 WHEREAS, the Senior Commander in Vietnam, General Creighton Abrams, said  
11 the 2nd Battalion, 138th Field Artillery, was "one of the best trained, and absolutely the  
12 best maintained battalion-sized unit in Vietnam";

13 NOW, THEREFORE,

14 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*  
15 *Kentucky:*

16 ➔Section 1. The Senate recognizes and honors the brave members of the 138th  
17 Field Artillery for their brave and heroic actions on the 50th anniversary of the attack on  
18 Firebase Tomahawk.

19 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns today it does so with honor and respect for  
20 the 138th Field Artillery and for all the brave men and women who have served in the  
21 United States Armed Forces.

22 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
23 Resolution to Senator Jimmy Higdon.