

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Veterans Suicide Memorial Mile on
2 Interstate 75 in Whitley County.

3 WHEREAS, it is highly fitting that the we as a Commonwealth and as individual
4 citizens pay honor and respect to the men and women who have served our nation; and

5 WHEREAS, many veterans returning from active duty experience not only physical
6 ailments but psychological ones as well, such as posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety,
7 depression, and difficulty readjusting to civilian life in general; and

8 WHEREAS, for some of these veterans, these psychological ailments turn into
9 chronic mental illnesses which can tragically result in death from suicide; and

10 WHEREAS, between 2008 and 2016, there were more than 6,000 veteran suicides
11 each year across the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2016, the most recent year for which data is available, the suicide
13 rate for veterans was 1.5 times greater than non-veterans and accounted for 14 percent of
14 all adult suicide deaths in the U.S. even though only eight percent of the country's
15 population has served in the military; and

16 WHEREAS, in 2016, there were 108 Kentuckian veteran suicides and nationally
17 6,079 veterans tragically lost their lives to suicide; and

18 WHEREAS, these brave service members deserve to be remembered and honored
19 for the great sacrifices they made serving this country; and

20 WHEREAS, suicide is a serious and tragic public health problem that can be
21 prevented through increased awareness, resources, and proper treatment; and

22 WHEREAS, suicide affects all Americans, but data shows that active duty service
23 members and veterans die by suicide at much higher rates than the civilian population;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, we must recognize that this tragic epidemic is taking the lives of those
26 who have most heavily borne the burden of protecting and serving their country, in the
27 past and present;

1 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

3 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate Interstate 75, at mile-
4 point 22 in Whitley County as the "Veterans Suicide Memorial Mile," and shall, within
5 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect the appropriate signage.