

1 AN ACT relating to veterans.

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

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 40 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) The Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame is hereby created and shall be attached to*
6 *the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs for administrative purposes. The*
7 *Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame shall recognize the active military and post-*
8 *military achievements of outstanding veterans and spotlight all veterans'*
9 *contributions to the civilian workplace.*

10 *(2) Each year, every person inducted into the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame*
11 *during that year shall have his or her name placed on a plaque which shall be*
12 *prominently displayed in the State Capitol.*

13 *(3) The Department of Veterans' Affairs may promulgate administrative regulations*
14 *to carry out the provisions of Sections 1 to 3 of this Act.*

15 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 40 IS CREATED TO
16 READ AS FOLLOWS:

17 *(1) The Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame executive committee is hereby created for*
18 *the purpose of establishing specific time periods for the acceptance of*
19 *nominations and for the process of selecting nominees. The executive committee*
20 *shall be composed of twelve (12) members. Executive committee members shall*
21 *be:*

22 *(a) The commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs or his*
23 *or her designee;*

24 *(b) Two (2) members appointed by the commissioner of the Kentucky*
25 *Department of Veterans' Affairs, one (1) to represent the state veterans'*
26 *cemeteries and one (1) to represent the state veterans' nursing homes;*

27 *(c) The commander of Fort Knox or his or her designee;*

- 1 (d) The commander of Fort Campbell or his or her designee;
- 2 (e) The Joint Executive Council of Veterans' Organizations of Kentucky, the
- 3 Kentucky State Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Kentucky American Legion,
- 4 the Disabled American Veterans Department of Kentucky, the AMVETS of
- 5 Kentucky, and the Vietnam Veterans of Kentucky shall each submit a list of
- 6 three (3) names to the Governor. The Governor shall appoint one (1)
- 7 member from each list; and
- 8 (f) One (1) member appointed by the Governor from a list of three (3) persons
- 9 submitted by the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame Foundation.
- 10 (2) The initial term of office for members of the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame
- 11 executive committee shall be staggered so that members representing the state
- 12 veterans' cemeteries, the Joint Executive Council of Veterans' Organizations of
- 13 Kentucky, the Kentucky State Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American
- 14 Veterans Department of Kentucky, and the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame
- 15 Foundation serve for two (2) years, and all other members serve for three (3)
- 16 years. All subsequent terms shall be for three (3) years. Each member shall serve
- 17 subsequent to the expiration of the member's term until the member's successor
- 18 is appointed, or until sixty (60) days have elapsed, whichever occurs first. No
- 19 members other than those appointed by the Kentucky Department of Veterans'
- 20 Affairs shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- 21 (3) All vacancies in the membership of the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame
- 22 executive committee shall be filled in the same manner as prescribed for original
- 23 appointments, and the terms of the appointees shall be limited to the unexpired
- 24 terms.
- 25 (4) The members of the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame executive committee shall
- 26 serve without compensation.
- 27 (5) The Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame executive committee shall elect a chair and

1 vice chair from its membership. It shall meet annually to select inductees for the
2 Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame from the persons nominated in a manner
3 prescribed by the executive committee. The names of selected inductees shall be
4 submitted to the Governor for final approval of the selected inductees. The
5 Governor shall provide any final approval within thirty (30) days after the
6 executive committee submits the names of the selected inductees. The Governor
7 may reject any of the selected inductees for cause, but shall not make any
8 additions to the list of those inductees.

9 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 40 IS CREATED TO
10 READ AS FOLLOWS:

11 (1) Nominations for the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame may be accepted for any
12 person who:

13 (a) Has served in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States for a
14 period of longer than three (3) months, to include members of a state
15 National Guard who have served in federal active duty under Title 10 or
16 Title 32 of the United States Code, and was released, separated, discharged,
17 or retired therefrom under honorable or general conditions;

18 (b) Was born in the state or has lived in the state for a period of five (5) or more
19 years;

20 (c) Is of good moral character; and

21 (d) Has not been convicted of any felony.

22 (2) All veterans who are recipients of the Medal of Honor or who were elected
23 President of the United States while residing in Kentucky and meet the
24 qualifications established in subsection (1) of this section shall be automatically
25 inducted into the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame.

26 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, all state elected officials,
27 members of the General Assembly, members of the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of

1 *Fame Foundation, members of the Kentucky Veterans' Hall of Fame executive*
2 *committee, members of the Governor's staff, members of the Kentucky Veterans'*
3 *Hall of Fame staff, and the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of*
4 *Veterans' Affairs, shall not be eligible for induction into the Kentucky Veterans'*
5 *Hall of Fame until one (1) year after they have left their position. The executive*
6 *committee may waive the one (1) year requirement for nominees over the age of*
7 *seventy (70) years.*