

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Corporal Howard Bentley.

2 WHEREAS, this august body rightfully honors those Kentuckians who
3 courageously served in the United States military, and who carried out their service with
4 such distinction and valor that they deserve the recognition and praise of an entire
5 Commonwealth; and

6 WHEREAS, Corporal Howard Bentley, a native of Greenup County, Kentucky, was
7 drafted into the United States Army while working in the shipyard of Baltimore,
8 Maryland; and

9 WHEREAS, Corporal Bentley would ultimately earn recognition as one of the
10 Commonwealth of Kentucky's most decorated soldiers during World War II; and

11 WHEREAS, Corporal Bentley served with the 96th Infantry Division, known as the
12 "Deadeye Division," a reference to Division Commander Major General James L.
13 Bradley's emphasis on individual marksmanship with the rifle; and

14 WHEREAS, Corporal Bentley was an invaluable addition to this elite group,
15 scoring 99 out of a possible 100 on the range while still a private and earning the Expert
16 Infantry Badge; and

17 WHEREAS, during his distinguished military service, Corporal Bentley was part of
18 the amphibious invasion of Leyte, the first step by America and her allies in taking back
19 the Philippines from the Japanese; and

20 WHEREAS, Corporal Bentley was among the first wave of infantrymen to begin
21 the long, hard battle of driving Japanese defenders from their entrenchment among the
22 caves and fortifications in Okinawa; and

23 WHEREAS, the Okinawa campaign would become known as one of the bloodiest
24 in American history, with the 96th Division carrying out the most difficult and dangerous
25 duties; and

26 WHEREAS, the Deadeyes would later become one of only four divisions in United
27 States military history to receive the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation in its entirety; and

1 WHEREAS, for his valor, skill, and service during World War II, Corporal Bentley
2 received a Bronze Star and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Philippine Citation Award,
3 the Presidential Citation, two Beachhead Arrows, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat
4 Infantry Badge, the World War II Victory Medal, and a Purple Heart; and

5 WHEREAS, following his honorable discharge from the Army in 1946, Corporal
6 Bentley continued to serve his country as a member of the Army Reserves. He was
7 eventually called back into duty to serve in the Korean War in 1950, for which he earned
8 a Bronze Star and two additional Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters while serving with the 394th
9 Chemical Smoke Company;

10 NOW, THEREFORE,

11 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of*
12 *Kentucky:*

13 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby honors Corporal Howard Bentley for his service
14 to this great nation and for his willingness to boldly and skillfully do what was necessary
15 to maintain peace and preserve freedom for the world.

16 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Corporal
17 Howard Bentley.

18 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
19 Resolution to Senator Whitney Westerfield for delivery.