

1           A RESOLUTION honoring and remembering Private Franklin Runyon Sousley on  
2 the 75th anniversary of his participation in hoisting the United States flag at Iwo Jima  
3 during World War II.

4           WHEREAS, Private Franklin Runyon Sousley, a native of Fleming County, was a  
5 member of the United States Marine Corps during World War II; and

6           WHEREAS, Private Sousley bravely fought in the battle for control of the island of  
7 Iwo Jima as a member of the 3rd Platoon, Echo Company, 28th Regiment, 5th Marine  
8 Division; and

9           WHEREAS, Private Sousley was one of five Marines and a Navy corpsman who  
10 were immortalized in Associate Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's photograph of the  
11 United States flag raising on Mount Suribachi, just after noon on February 23, 1945, the  
12 fourth day of the battle; and

13           WHEREAS, the flag's location on the top of Mount Suribachi was a rallying point  
14 for the Marines fighting in that battle as well as for Americans on the home front,  
15 becoming the symbol used during the Seventh War Bond drive; and

16           WHEREAS, Private Sousley's honor, courage, and commitment greatly attributed to  
17 the success of the 36-day assault on the eight-mile island. His service to country and  
18 Corps was reflective of the more than 100,000 sailors and Marines who served on the  
19 island, the sacrifice of the 18,070 wounded, and the 6,891 who were killed in action; and

20           WHEREAS, Private Sousley was fatally shot on March 21, 1945, a victim of  
21 Japanese sniper fire on Iwo Jima, less than one month after the flag raising; and

22           WHEREAS, Private Sousley was one of the last Marines to die in the battle; and

23           WHEREAS, Private Sousley's selfless heroism and participation in an iconic  
24 moment of World War II contributed to the United States of America defeating Japan and  
25 ending the war in the Pacific. His actions will forever be remembered by family, friends,  
26 and a grateful nation; and

27           WHEREAS, Sunday, February 23, 2020, marked the 75th anniversary of the

1 historic flag raising on Iwo Jima, and an entire Commonwealth stands in grateful  
2 recognition of this historic event, and in solemn reverence for great Kentuckian Private  
3 Franklin Runyon Sousley;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔Section 1. The Senate hereby honors and remembers the ultimate sacrifice paid  
8 by Private Franklin Runyon Sousley, and acknowledges the 75th anniversary of the  
9 historic flag-raising during the Battle for Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945.

10 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and  
11 remembrance of Private Franklin Runyon Sousley.

12 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
13 Resolution to Senator Stephen West.