A RESOLUTION recognizing the 100th anniversary of the American Physical Therapy Association.

WHEREAS, reconstruction aides, strong women who were the predecessors to current physical therapists, were integral to the recovery of many World War I soldiers and demonstrated their value as medical professionals and war heroes, showing that those who would eventually be known as physical therapists had a major role to play in the future of America's health; and

WHEREAS, Mary McMillan, a reconstruction aide, was elected in 1921 as the first president of the American Women's Physical Therapeutic Association; and

WHEREAS, Emma Vogel initiated the first War Emergency Training Course of World War II at Walter Reed General Hospital in 1941, consisting of six months of concentrated didactic instruction followed by six months of supervised practice at a military hospital; and

WHEREAS, Lucy Blair was a part of Jonas Salk's national response to the polio epidemic in the late 1950s, serving as the staff coordinator for physical therapists; and

WHEREAS, the effort to launch a two-year graduate education program for physical therapists began at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1960; and

WHEREAS, the first two classes of physical therapist assistants entered the workforce after graduating in 1969 from education programs at Miami-Dade Community College in Florida and St. Mary's Junior College in Minnesota (now St. Catherine University); and

WHEREAS, the first physical therapy department as a history Black college or university was established at Howard University in 1974; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, the American Physical Therapy Association launched the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy, which gained national recognition by the United States Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education...
Accreditation as the sole entity that grants specialized accreditation status to qualified
entry-level education programs for physical therapists and physical therapist assistants;
and

WHEREAS, the first doctor of physical therapy students graduated from Creighton
University in 1996, and as of 2015 all physical therapists were educated at the clinical
doctoral level; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the physical therapy profession is transforming society by
optimizing movement to improve human experience; and

WHEREAS, given that the United States Department of Health and Human
Services indicated that more than 80 percent of adults and adolescents do not get enough
physical activity and that regular activity is one of the most important ways to improve
health, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants are critical to health services
teams as movement experts who improve quality of life by addressing pain or chronic
conditions that limit participation in activities, and by reducing the risk for chronic
diseasing, enhancing fitness, and preventing injuries through hands-on care, patient
education, and prescribed movement based on rigorous research; and

WHEREAS, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants treat people where
they are, providing care to people in many settings, including hospitals, private practices,
outpatient clinics, homes, schools, sports teams and fitness facilities, the United States
Armed Forces, veterans facilities, work settings, and nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants treat individuals
across the lifespan and have clinical expertise in 18 specialty areas: Acute Care, Aquatics,
Cardiovascular and Pulmonary, Clinical Electrophysiology and Wound Management,
Education, Federal, Geriatrics, Hand and Upper Extremity, Health Policy and
Administration, Home Health, Neurology, Oncology, Orthopedics, Pediatrics, Pelvic
Health, Private Practice, Research, and Sports; and

WHEREAS, physical therapy is effective in reducing pain, such as low back pain,
as evidenced by a growing body of research for physical therapist treatment of low back pain that includes a 2018 study published in Health Services Research showing that physical therapy as a first-line approach not only saves money but also dramatically reduces the chance of receiving a prescription for dangerous opioids; and

WHEREAS, students of physical therapy are being educated to address the health care needs of Americans for the next 100 years; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, the American Physical Therapy Association launched the Campaign for Future Generations to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts for the association and the physical therapy profession; and

WHEREAS, physical therapists and physical therapist assistants have faced the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic head on, treating the most vulnerable, building on their proud history of work in the polio pandemic, and playing an essential role in treating people who are beginning to recover from the most severe effects of the novel coronavirus, both during their time in the hospital and after they leave, for as long as it takes to improve function;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

⇒ Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes the American Physical Therapy Association for its dedication to improving the health of society over the past 100 years.

⇒ Section 2. The House of Representatives recognizes the American Physical Therapy Association and its members as essential partners to meeting the future health and wellness needs of our country.

⇒ Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Melinda Gibbons Prunty.