

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the Senate in honor and loving memory of Ernest
2 "Ernie" Edison West.

3 WHEREAS, Ernie West was born in Russell, Kentucky, on September 2, 1931.
4 Ernie was orphaned at five years of age and grew up in the Methodist Home in Versailles,
5 Kentucky; and

6 WHEREAS, Ernie was drafted in the United States Army as a Private First Class in
7 the 14th Infantry Regiment. Ernie served in the Army from 1950 until 1953. In October
8 1952, when Ernie's platoon was ambushed, Ernie rescued his wounded Unit Commander,
9 Captain George Gividen, by carrying him out of direct combat before going back to the
10 battlefield to rescue two more soldiers. Ernie's eye was injured during this battle and he
11 later lost that eye; and

12 WHEREAS, Because of Ernie's heroic actions, he was presented the Medal of
13 Honor by President Dwight Eisenhower on January 29, 1954 at the White House.
14 President Eisenhower proclaimed to Ernie, "Please accept the admiration of an old
15 soldier," as the President placed the medal around Ernie's neck; and

16 WHEREAS, Ernie returned to Wurtland, Kentucky, where he met his beloved wife
17 Janie, whom he married in 1953. Ernie worked for and retired from the CSX Railroad. He
18 coached football and basketball at Wurtland High School for many years. He was an
19 active member of his community and remained committed to serving others throughout
20 his lifetime; and

21 WHEREAS, Ernie was a fast friend to all who knew him. He was modest,
22 unassuming, and reliable, and shared his hearty laugh and sharp tongue with anyone he
23 met; and

24 WHEREAS, Ernie West took his last breath at St. Mary's Hospital in Huntington,
25 West Virginia, on Saturday, May 1, 2021. He was preceded in death by his wife,
26 Gwendolyn Jane Stafford West. He is survived by his only daughter, Amy (Randy)
27 Hogsett; five granddaughters, Amber (Chris) Furman, Kara Wilburn, Miranda Hogsett,

1 Ally (Stephen) Roy, and Bethany Hogsett; great grandchildren Bailey Graves, Josie
2 Graves, Kayden Furman, Ella Wilburn, Max Roy, Zooey Roy, and Asher Roy, as well as
3 many close friends and family across the nation;

4 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate, both individually and collectively,
8 hereby express their most profound sympathy upon the passing of Ernest "Ernie" Edison
9 West, and posthumously thank him for his service to this country and for his valor shown
10 in battle as well as his service to his community in Kentucky.

11 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor and loving
12 memory of Ernest "Ernie" Edison West.

13 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this
14 Resolution to Senator Robin L. Webb for delivery to the family.