

1           A RESOLUTION recognizing and honoring Captain Thomas F. Mantell Jr.

2           WHEREAS, on January 7, 1948, an unidentified flying object, or UFO, was  
3 reported in several locations around Kentucky and Ohio; and

4           WHEREAS, State Police reported the UFO sighting to the control tower at the  
5 Godman Army Airfield at Fort Knox; and

6           WHEREAS, the control tower asked Captain Thomas F. Mantell Jr. and his  
7 squadron of P51 Mustangs to investigate upon their return from a training mission for the  
8 newly organized Kentucky Air National Guard; and

9           WHEREAS, Captain Mantell allegedly reported a glowing metallic UFO of  
10 tremendous size back to the control tower before heroically pursuing it across the sky;  
11 and

12           WHEREAS, Captain Mantell's pursuit tragically ended when his plane began  
13 spiraling before crashing to the ground; and

14           WHEREAS, the official incident report speculated that Captain Mantell ascended  
15 above safe oxygen levels, resulting in his loss of consciousness and eventual crash while  
16 pursuing a planet or balloon; and

17           WHEREAS, Captain Mantell was the first casualty of the Kentucky Air National  
18 Guard; and

19           WHEREAS, media nationwide reported his crash and proposed the theory that his  
20 death was caused by aliens; and

21           WHEREAS, Captain Mantell was a member of the Army Air Corps, the  
22 predecessor of the Air Force, and flew at Normandy, France, on D-Day; and

23           WHEREAS, Captain Mantell was a decorated officer, having received the  
24 Distinguished Flying Cross for his heroism; and

25           WHEREAS, his dearest family members firmly hold that he was too experienced a  
26 pilot to fly above safe oxygen levels; and

27           WHEREAS, although we may never know the true cause of Captain Mantell's

1 death, we do know he was born on June 30, 1922, in Franklin, Kentucky, although he  
2 never actually lived there; and

3 WHEREAS, this incident is widely considered the first official UFO sighting and  
4 the basis of many hostile alien theories; and

5 WHEREAS, this incident was publicized as a classic UFO sighting of the late  
6 1940s, and numerous articles, books, videos, and documentaries have been published  
7 about this incident; and

8 WHEREAS, the Simpson County Historical Society erected a monument in Captain  
9 Mantell's honor in 2001;

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 Captain Thomas F. Mantell Jr. and  
14 posthumously thanks him for his service on the 75th anniversary of his death.

15 ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns on this day, it does so in loving  
16 remembrance of Captain Thomas F. Mantell Jr..

17 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
18 Resolution to Senator Mike Wilson for delivery.