

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Morris Crain Memorial Bridge in Ballard  
2 County.

3 WHEREAS, Morris Eugene Crain was born on October 7, 1924, in Bandana,  
4 Kentucky, to Dean and Lillian Booker Crain of Ballard County as one of 11 children; and

5 WHEREAS, four months following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and six  
6 months following his seventeenth birthday, Morris Crain enlisted in the United States  
7 Army on April 7, 1942; and

8 WHEREAS, upon graduation from Infantry School, Morris Crain was granted a 14-  
9 day furlough, during which he went home to visit family and marry his partner, Charliene  
10 McTaggart, in a quiet ceremony in Bandana; and

11 WHEREAS, following enlistment and training, Private Morris Crain was assigned  
12 to the 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, known as the "T-Patchers"  
13 because their insignia consisted of an olive "T" on a blue flint arrowhead; and

14 WHEREAS, Private Morris Crain first saw action with the 36th Infantry Division  
15 beginning at Salerno, Italy, on September 9, 1943, at the beginning of the Italian  
16 campaign; and

17 WHEREAS, during a rest and recuperation period during the Italian campaign,  
18 Private Morris Crain received a letter announcing the birth of his daughter, Morris Fay  
19 Crain, which intensified his desire to perform his duties and safely return home; and

20 WHEREAS, the 36th Infantry Division then gradually advanced into Southern  
21 France, where Private Morris Crain was injured during fighting outside of Montélimar,  
22 earning him his first Purple Heart; and

23 WHEREAS, after recovering from his injuries, Private Morris Crain returned to the  
24 36th Infantry Division, joining them in the Vosges Mountains, where he was shot in the  
25 forehead, but continued fighting, earning him a second Purple Heart; and

26 WHEREAS, after being promoted to Technical Sergeant and acting as the leader of  
27 his own platoon due to being the highest-ranking soldier remaining, Technical Sergeant

1 Morris Crain and the 36th Infantry Division continued into Haguenau, France, on March  
2 13, 1945; and

3 WHEREAS, after advancing into Haguenau, Technical Sergeant Morris Crain and  
4 the 36th Infantry Division encountered German soldiers, killing 10 and capturing 12 of  
5 them; and

6 WHEREAS, during the fight against the German soldiers, some of Technical  
7 Sergeant Morris Crain's men became trapped in a house surrounded by Germans; and

8 WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Morris Crain bravely charged into the house and  
9 ordered the men to withdraw while staying behind to ensure their escape, knowingly  
10 facing certain death; and

11 WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Morris Crain, having secured his men's escape,  
12 continued to fight the German soldiers, but before he could reach safety, the brick house  
13 collapsed, killing him; and

14 WHEREAS, Technical Sergeant Morris Crain's remains were then returned to the  
15 United States and laid to rest at the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church Cemetery in La  
16 Center, Kentucky; and

17 WHEREAS, nearly a year after his death, on February 13, 1946, the United States  
18 government posthumously awarded Technical Sergeant Morris Crain the Medal of  
19 Honor, the highest available military decoration; and

20 WHEREAS, later that year, on June 8, 1946, the United States Navy christened  
21 cargo ship T-AK-244 the *Sgt. Morris E. Crain*, and the vessel would remain active until  
22 its decommission in 1975; and

23 WHEREAS, in recognition of Technical Sergeant Morris Crain's service to our  
24 Commonwealth, nation, and all those liberated in the aftermath of World War II, it is  
25 appropriate that his sacrifice be memorialized in some tangible way;

26 NOW, THEREFORE,

27 ***Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

1           ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate the bridge on Kentucky  
2 Route 538 crossing Hanley Creek (Bridge ID #004B00025N) as the "Morris Crain  
3 Memorial Bridge," and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this Resolution, erect  
4 signs denoting this designation.