

1           A RESOLUTION recognizing July 20, 2024, as Western Kentucky University  
2 Pershing Rifles and Rebelettes Day.

3           WHEREAS, on February 4, 1937, the National Society of Pershing Rifles granted a  
4 membership charter to the cadet company at Western Kentucky State Teacher's College;  
5 and

6           WHEREAS, this cadet company was designated Company B, 3rd Regiment,  
7 National Society of Pershing Rifles and was a fixture at Western Kentucky University  
8 from 1937 to 1983; and

9           WHEREAS, the Pershing Rifles of Western Kentucky University were part of the  
10 National Society of Pershing Rifles, a military-oriented honor society created in honor of  
11 General of the Armies, John J. "Black Jack" Pershing; and

12           WHEREAS, according to the 1939 Pershing Rifles constitution, the members  
13 sought to encourage, preserve, and develop the highest ideals of the military profession,  
14 promote American citizenship, create a closer and more efficient relation, and provide  
15 appropriate recognition of a high degree of military ability among the cadets of the  
16 several senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps units of the government of their  
17 organization; and

18           WHEREAS, the Pershing Rifles also sought to foster a spirit of friendship and  
19 cooperation among men in the military department and to maintain a highly efficient drill  
20 company; and

21           WHEREAS, the Western Kentucky University Pershing Rifles Drill Teams won  
22 numerous drill competitions, including national championships in 1971 and 1975; and

23           WHEREAS, the Pershing Rifles were joined by the women's auxiliary organization,  
24 known as the Rebelettes, from 1964 to 1983; and

25           WHEREAS, the Rebelettes were also successful, winning national championships  
26 in 1967, 1973, and 1975. The Rebelettes were famous for the "Garter Salute," and their  
27 silent drill routines, which highlighted their excellence in drill and ceremonies; and

1           WHEREAS, in August, 1983, the difficult decision was made to retire the Pershing  
2 Rifles Company and Rebelettes Auxiliary. Replacing these units was the Organization of  
3 the Red Knights. Though not affiliated with a National Association, the Red Knights  
4 continue the excellence in drill and ceremonies, presentation of the official colors, and  
5 demonstrations of the highest standards of military bearing within the Corps of Cadets;

6           NOW, THEREFORE,

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

9           ➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby acknowledge the history  
10 of excellence of the Western Kentucky University Pershing Rifles Company B, 3rd  
11 Regiment and Rebelettes Auxiliary and recognizes July 20, 2024, as Western Kentucky  
12 University Pershing Rifles and Rebelettes Day.

13           ➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a  
14 copy of this Resolution to the office of Representative DJ Johnson for presentation.