

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Bud and John Blanton Memorial Bridge
2 in Johnson County.

3 WHEREAS, George "Bud" Blanton was born on December 5, 1933, in Johnson
4 County, and John Wallace Blanton, was born on October 22, 1935, in Johnson County, to
5 proud parents Charlie Blanton and Emma McKenzie Blanton; and

6 WHEREAS, following their graduations from Flat Gap High School, John Blanton
7 enlisted in the military to serve his country during the Korean Conflict while Bud Blanton
8 stayed home to support the family as a tool and die fabricator; and

9 WHEREAS, following his service in the Korean Conflict, John Blanton received
10 formal training as a welder. This skill allowed him to gain employment building naval
11 warships at the shipyard in Newport News, Virginia, building the world's largest dragline
12 shovel for the Peabody Coal Company in Marion, Ohio, and working on the construction
13 of the Launch Pad Rocket Crawler for NASA in Cape Canaveral, Florida; and

14 WHEREAS, when John Blanton returned to Johnson County, he jointly opened a
15 Texaco service station in Staffordsville on Route 40 with his brother, Bud Blanton, the
16 success of which led to later expansion with "Blanton's Market" on a nearby parcel, and
17 the opening of "The Fishing Hole," a recreational supply store that coincided with the
18 creation of the Paintsville Lake; and

19 WHEREAS, John and Bud Blanton's three local businesses remained staples in the
20 Staffordsville area for decades until their passing; and

21 WHEREAS, George "Bud" Blanton married Helen Stapleton and they had three
22 children together, Sherry Lynn Blanton Van Hoose, Terrie Sue (Carl) Kamphaus, and
23 Chris (Stephanie) Blanton; and

24 WHEREAS, George "Bud" Blanton died on February 26, 2022, in Prestonsburg,
25 Kentucky, at the age of 88, and is now buried in Lakeview Memorial Cemetery in
26 Staffordsville; and

27 WHEREAS, John Wallace Blanton died on November 6, 2011, in Staffordsville,

1 Kentucky, at the age of 76, and is now buried alongside his wife, Juanita J. Lemaster
2 Blanton, in Lakeview Memorial Cemetery in Staffordsville; and

3 WHEREAS, this bridge designation will serve as a tangible reminder of the lives of
4 Bud Blanton and John Blanton and their contributions to the Staffordsville community;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate the bridge on Kentucky
8 Route 40 crossing Mudlick Creek (Bridge ID #058B00064N) as the "Bud and John
9 Blanton Memorial Bridge," and shall, within 30 days of the effective date of this
10 Resolution, erect signs denoting this designation.