

1 A RESOLUTION honoring Sergeant Billy Ray West for heroism in the line of duty.

2 WHEREAS, Sergeant Billy Ray West served two tours of duty in Vietnam, with  
3 one of those tours occurring during the Tet Offensive period; and

4 WHEREAS, on the evening of June 17, 1968, Sergeant Billy Ray West served as a  
5 Squad Leader with Company A, First Military Police Battalion, Force Logistic Command  
6 in the Republic of Vietnam; and

7 WHEREAS, two fire teams embarked on a skimmer boat to be transported to their  
8 respective ambush sites along the Cau Do River; and

9 WHEREAS, en route, one of the small boats suddenly capsized, hurling the heavily  
10 laden men into the deep and swiftly flowing river; and

11 WHEREAS, upon surfacing, Sergeant West immediately rallied the disoriented  
12 men around the boat, directing them to shed as much equipment as possible and cling to  
13 the side of the overturned vessel; and

14 WHEREAS, after assisting the radio operator, he immediately utilized the radio to  
15 request assistance from his company and then directed the team leaders to ensure that all  
16 of their men were accounted for; and

17 WHEREAS, displaying calm presence of mind and outstanding leadership, he then  
18 moved about while assisting several men to the side of the capsized boat and calling  
19 words of encouragement to his companions, until another skimmer boat arrived at their  
20 position; and

21 WHEREAS, Sergeant West's courage, bold initiative, and devotion to duty were in  
22 keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service; and

23 WHEREAS, for his acts of service, heroism, and bravery Sergeant West was  
24 awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal, the National Defense Medal, the Vietnam  
25 Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal;

26 NOW, THEREFORE,

27 ***Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of***

1 ***Kentucky:***

2       ➔Section 1. The members of the Senate hereby honor Sergeant Billy Ray West  
3 for his acts of heroism and valor beyond the call of duty.

4       ➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in honor of Sergeant  
5 Billy Ray West.

6       ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit a copy of this  
7 Resolution to Senator Stephen West.