

1 AN ACT relating to Women Veterans' Day.

2 WHEREAS, women have proudly served their country throughout all periods of the
3 history of the United States, whether disguised as male soldiers during the American
4 Revolution and Civil War, as nurses in World War I, or as combat helicopter pilots in
5 Afghanistan; and

6 WHEREAS, women have formally been a part of the United States Armed Forces
7 since the inception of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, but have informally served since
8 the inception of our nation's military; and

9 WHEREAS, our veterans disregard personal well-being and act with incredible
10 honor to preserve for us, the citizens of this great nation, a gift of unapproachable
11 magnitude: our freedom; and

12 WHEREAS, it was not until well after World War II that women who served in the
13 military began to officially be recognized as veterans; and

14 WHEREAS, women who have served in the United States military are often
15 referred to as "invisible veterans" because their service contributions, until the 1970s,
16 went largely unrecognized; and

17 WHEREAS, there are currently over 2 million women veterans living in the United
18 States and Puerto Rico, and of those 2 million, 21,000 live in the Commonwealth of
19 Kentucky; and

20 WHEREAS, Kentucky honors the tremendous sacrifices our women in uniform
21 have made in order to defend our country; and

22 WHEREAS, it is the Commonwealth's duty to honor the memory of our dedicated
23 servicewomen who never returned home, having made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve
24 our nation and its way of life; and

25 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth pays special tribute to the valiant guardians of our
26 freedom who remain listed as Missing in Action and offers our support to the loving
27 families who hope for their safe return; and

1 WHEREAS, as citizens of the United States of America, we owe an inexpressible
2 debt to our female veterans, and today we ask that their spirit never be forgotten; and

3 WHEREAS, the valor and devotion to duty demonstrated by current and past
4 servicewomen have paved the way for future generations;

5 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

7 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO
8 READ AS FOLLOWS:

9 *The twelfth day of June of each year is designated as Women Veterans' Day in the*
10 *Commonwealth of Kentucky.*

11 ➔Section 2. The Governor shall issue a proclamation each year designating June
12 12 as Women Veterans' Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and direct the executive
13 branch to acknowledge the day in commemoration of the numerous contributions,
14 sacrifices, and valor displayed by women veterans.