

1 AN ACT relating to Women Veterans' Appreciation Day and declaring an
2 emergency.

3 WHEREAS, women have proudly served their country throughout all periods of the
4 history of the United States: disguising themselves as male soldiers during the American
5 Revolution and Civil War, serving as nurses in both World Wars, flying combat
6 helicopters in Afghanistan, and serving in countless other ways; and

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

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, there are currently around 2,000,000 women veterans living in the
19 United States and Puerto Rico, and of those, over 27,000 live in the Commonwealth of
20 Kentucky; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, the Commonwealth pays special tribute to the valiant guardians of our
27 freedom who remain listed as Missing in Action and offers our support to the loving

1 families who hope for their safe return; and

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

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

6 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

10 **(1) The twelfth day of June of each year is designated as "Women Veterans'**
11 **Appreciation Day" in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.**

12 **(2) The Governor shall issue a proclamation each year designating June 12 as**
13 **"Women Veterans' Appreciation Day" in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and**
14 **encourage the citizens of this Commonwealth to acknowledge the day in**
15 **commemoration of the numerous contributions, sacrifices, and displays of valor**
16 **made by women veterans.**

17 ➔Section 2. Whereas it is of the utmost importance to recognize women who
18 have valiantly served in the military and to commemorate Women Veterans' Appreciation
19 Day in 2023, an emergency is declared to exist, and this Act takes effect upon its passage
20 and approval by the Governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.