

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION designating the Edgar Harrell Memorial Highway in
2 Trigg County.

3 WHEREAS, Edgar Alvin Harrell was born on October 10, 1924, in Trigg County,
4 to Alvin H. and Myra Belle Atwood Harrell; and

5 WHEREAS, Edgar Harrell served in the United States Military as a Marine from
6 1943 to January 1946; and

7 WHEREAS, while serving as a Marine in the Pacific, Edgar Harrell was stationed
8 on the USS Indianapolis as one of 1,196 crew members; and

9 WHEREAS, Edgar Harrell was one of the Marines responsible for the security of
10 enriched uranium destined for the atomic bomb, "Little Boy," during USS Indianapolis's
11 top-secret transport mission to the Tinian Naval Base from San Francisco on July 16,
12 1945; and

13 WHEREAS, after leaving Tinian Island on July 30, 1945, the USS Indianapolis was
14 struck by two torpedoes from a Japanese submarine causing explosions and massive
15 damage, which quickly and completely sunk the ship within 12 minutes of the initial
16 attack; and

17 WHEREAS, the crew members that managed to escape the ship during the sinking,
18 approximately 900 men, including Edgar Harrell, clung to the remaining lifeboats and
19 awaited rescue for four long days. During this time, the survivors suffered exposure,
20 dehydration, shark attacks, hypothermia, and other horrors; and

21 WHEREAS, on August 2, 1945, the 317 remaining survivors were rescued from the
22 Pacific Ocean by the United States Navy, and included in their number was Edgar
23 Harrell; and

24 WHEREAS, the sinking of the USS Indianapolis is the greatest single ship disaster
25 in the history of the United States Navy; and

26 WHEREAS, Edgar Harrell, with the help of his son, David Harrell, wrote a book
27 about surviving the ordeal called *Out of the Depths: An Unforgettable WWII Story of*

1 *Survival, Courage, and the Sinking of the USS Indianapolis* which was published in
2 2016; and

3 WHEREAS, in 2018, Edgar Harrell was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal
4 and received an honorary promotion to the rank of Sergeant; and

5 WHEREAS, Edgar Harrell, the last surviving Marine of the USS Indianapolis
6 sinking, passed away at the age of 96 on May 8, 2021; and

7 WHEREAS, Edgar Harrell's courage, resilience, and life of service deserves
8 tangible recognition and it is fitting that his service be honored;

9 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

11 ➔Section 1. The Transportation Cabinet shall designate U.S. Route 68/Kentucky
12 Route 80 in Trigg County, from mile point 9.0 to the intersection with Kentucky Route
13 1489, as the "Edgar Harrell Memorial Highway" and shall, within 30 days of the effective
14 date of this Resolution, erect appropriate signs denoting this designation.