

1 A RESOLUTION honoring and commemorating the 100th anniversary of the
2 founding of Fort Knox.

3 WHEREAS, America's involvement in World War I made it necessary to establish
4 new military installations; and

5 WHEREAS, on April 6, 1918, the first field artillery units arrived at West Point
6 from Camp Zachary Taylor in Louisville. That summer the Army leased 20,000 acres in
7 the area of Stithton, Kentucky. Under Major W.H. Radcliffe, Constructing Quartermaster
8 at Camp Knox, construction began in August of 1918; and

9 WHEREAS, the new post was named in honor of General Henry Knox, Chief of
10 Artillery in the Revolutionary War and first Secretary of War. In September of 1918 it
11 was decided to permanently move the artillery camp in West Point to Stithton. That
12 October, Camp Knox's Godman Field became the first airfield in Kentucky when it was
13 built for the 29th Aero Squadron; and

14 WHEREAS, despite closing as a permanent installation in 1922, Camp Knox
15 remained an active training center for the Army. Camp Knox was used by the 5th Corps
16 Area for Reserve Officer training, the National Guard, and Citizens' Military Training
17 Camps. During 1925 to 1928, the area was designated as "Camp Henry Knox National
18 Forest" until two infantry companies were assigned to the post in 1928; and

19 WHEREAS, Camp Knox was chosen to be the new headquarters for the
20 Mechanized Cavalry in 1931. On January 1, 1932, Camp Knox was made a permanent
21 installation once again and has since been known as Fort Knox; and

22 WHEREAS, Mechanized Cavalry established the early doctrine of armored warfare.
23 Maneuvers were held that supported the importance of armored vehicles in modern
24 combat. Other duties were also presented, and in 1937 they were called upon to guard
25 gold moving into the Treasury Department's new depository; and

26 WHEREAS, with the outbreak of World War II in Europe, the United States Army
27 prepared with the creation of the Armored Force and headquartered it at Fort Knox in the

1 summer of 1940. It was responsible for establishing armored formations, doctrine, and
2 training in the use of armored vehicles. The Selective Service System was implemented,
3 and thousands of citizen soldiers were ordered to Fort Knox and introduced to the tank;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, in October 1940, the Armored Force School and Armored Force
6 Replacement Center were established, training soldiers in specific areas such as armor
7 tactics, tank gunnery, communications, and maintenance. The United States was thrown
8 into World War II on December 7, 1941, and the Armored Force experienced their first
9 battle casualty the following day. PFC Robert Brooks, 192nd Tank Battalion, would be
10 honored with having the main parade ground named for him; and

11 WHEREAS, during World War II, armor made great advancements through the
12 development of new tanks, organization, and training. Equipment and soldiers benefited
13 from findings made by the Armored Board and Armored Medical Research Laboratory at
14 Fort Knox; and

15 WHEREAS, in 1943 the Armored Force Replacement Training Center officially
16 became the Armored Replacement Training Center, where soldiers received a 17-week
17 course including instruction in various arms, big tank guns, tank driving and
18 maintenance, chemical warfare, and many other subjects. Soldiers were introduced to
19 hills "Misery," "Agony," and "Heartbreak," before graduating and being sent to divisions,
20 additional schooling, or straight into the various theaters of war; and

21 WHEREAS, at the close of World War II there were 16 combat-tested armored
22 divisions and approximately 65 tank battalions. Armored units had participated in every
23 major theater of operations; and

24 WHEREAS, under the Army Organization Act of 1950, armor and cavalry were
25 combined to form the Armor Branch. In 1955, the 3rd Armored Division was shipped to
26 Europe and the U.S. Army Training Center, and Armor was activated at Fort Knox to
27 resume training. In 1957, the Center was renamed and became the U.S. Army Armor

1 Center; and

2 WHEREAS, the Cold War helped secure the Armor Branch's role in the Army, and
3 the Armor Center continued to fulfill the role of producing capable and highly trained
4 armor personnel. By the late 1960s, more than one million trainees had completed one or
5 more training programs in the Fort Knox Training Center since its inception in 1940; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1981, the Armor Center contributed to the development of the
7 Army's AirLand Battle Doctrine. Guidelines set forth in this doctrine were applied
8 successfully in the Gulf War in the early 1990s. During this conflict, Fort Knox served as
9 a mobilization center and provided combat-ready soldiers; and

10 WHEREAS, in 2005, the Armor Center and School relocated to Fort Benning. In its
11 place, Fort Knox gained the 19th Engineer Battalion; Army Reserve Aviation Command;
12 84th Training Command; U.S. Army Human Resources Command; U.S. Army Cadet
13 Command (now the installation's primary mission); 100th Division; the U.S. Army
14 Recruiting and Retention School; and the 1st Theater Sustainment Command in 2017;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, today Fort Knox is one of the most multifunctional installations in the
17 Army. The post plays a central role in recruiting, training, and supporting the warfighters
18 and preparing them for the challenges of the 21st century;

19 NOW, THEREFORE,

20 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
21 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

22 ➔Section 1. The Kentucky General Assembly honors and commemorates the
23 100th anniversary of the founding of Fort Knox.

24 ➔Section 2. The General Assembly recognizes and commends the heroic
25 contribution of the many brave men and women stationed at Fort Knox to the
26 Commonwealth and to our nation.

27 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a

- 1 copy of this Resolution to Representative Tim Moore for delivery.