

A RESOLUTION urging the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and Kentucky's United States Congressional delegation to take the appropriate steps to get the approval and funding necessary for the construction of a veterans center in Magoffin County, Kentucky.

WHEREAS, throughout the history of the Commonwealth, its sons and daughters have answered the nation's call to military service and have traversed the globe in defense of this great country; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky's veterans deserve all of the respect and admiration for their service that can be mustered, and in doing so the Commonwealth has an obligation to ensure access to the best quality healthcare available; and

WHEREAS, an integrated network of veterans nursing homes spread evenly throughout the state would be the best way to provide care to the Commonwealth's aging veteran population; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs operates three veterans centers in Kentucky located in Wilmore, Hazard, and Hanson, with a fourth opening in Radcliff this year. This distribution of facilities means that far more veterans center beds are available to veterans in Western and Central Kentucky than in Eastern Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs has limited the number of veterans center beds in Kentucky to 818. With the completion of the Radcliff Veterans Center, Kentucky will have 681 beds available, leaving an allocation of 137 beds that could be offered by a veterans center in Magoffin County; and

WHEREAS, Magoffin County is centrally located in Eastern Kentucky. A facility located in Magoffin County would be within 100 miles of the VA Medical Centers in Huntington, West Virginia and Lexington, Kentucky, and the VA Clinic in Prestonsburg, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Magoffin County has an unemployment rate of 13 percent, and a 137-bed facility would create over 100 jobs; and

WHEREAS, with the expansion of the Mountain Parkway, a facility located in Magoffin County would provide easy access to the facility for veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, the judge/executive and fiscal court of Magoffin County have signed a resolution that land is available for such a facility;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives does hereby urge the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Governor of the Commonwealth, and Kentucky's United States Congressional delegation to take necessary actions to get the approval and funding for the construction of a veterans center in Magoffin County, Kentucky.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby directed to transmit copies of this Resolution to Governor Matthew Bevin, 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 100, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; the commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs, 1111B Louisville Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Senator Rand Paul, 167 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510; Representative Andy Barr, 1432 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Thomas Massie, 314 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Brett Guthrie, 2434 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative Harold Rogers, 2406 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Representative John Yarmuth, 403 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and Representative Edward Whitfield, 2184 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.