

A RESOLUTION honoring Major General Edward Tonini upon his retirement, for the dedication and commitment shown throughout his career in the United States Air National Guard and his active leadership and involvement within his community while serving as the Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

WHEREAS, General Edward Tonini began his career as an enlisted member of the 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing of the Kentucky Air National Guard. He received a direct commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Guard in 1970; and

WHEREAS, while serving in the Air National Guard, General Edward Tonini received a Bachelor of Arts in History from Bellarmine University in 1973. He later graduated from the Air War College. In 2000, he graduated from the United States Air Force Wing Commander's Course at Maxwell Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, General Edward Tonini rose through the ranks to become Chief of Staff of the Kentucky Air National Guard from 1996 to 2003. He also served as Director of Your Guardians of Freedom at the Pentagon, and served at the Air Force Personnel Center in Denver; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2007, General Edward Tonini was appointed as the 51st Adjutant General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky by Governor Steven L. Beshear. In this position, General Tonini was charged with leading both the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard, the Division of Emergency Management, and Bluegrass Station; and

WHEREAS, in January 2009, General Edward Tonini was in command during the Kentucky National Guard's largest state active duty call up in the history of the Commonwealth. Responding to an ice storm that resulted in more than 100 counties declaring a state of emergency, more than 4,600 troops went door to door checking on residents of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, recognizing from his experiences during the ice storm that Emergency Management's facilities were out of date, General Edward Tonini worked tirelessly to

establish a facility that would serve the Commonwealth's needs in the future. On October 21, 2013, his efforts resulted in the opening of the new Operations Center; and

WHEREAS, under General Edward Tonini's direction, Bluegrass Station has had an economic impact that has doubled to more than 300 million dollars, increased state tax revenues to over nine million dollars, and increased the property value to 161 million dollars, all while providing outstanding facilities for federal, state, and local governmental operations as well as private contractors; and

WHEREAS, during General Edward Tonini's command, the Kentucky National Guard has executed nearly 200 million dollars in facility improvements resulting in the addition of approximately 650,000 square feet of facilities. These facilities and improvements ranged from Paducah to Burlington and Louisville to London; and

WHEREAS, during General Edward Tonini's tenure, the Kentucky National Guard has deployed more than 16,000 soldiers and airmen to operations in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia, South America, and Antarctica; and

WHEREAS, under General Tonini's command, the Kentucky Army National Guard saw the largest deployment of Kentucky Guardsmen since World War II. More than 1200 soldiers deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn; and

WHEREAS, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, General Tonini championed the mission of sending Agribusiness Development Teams to Afghanistan. These five unique teams deployed to Afghanistan from 2007 to 2013; and

WHEREAS, General Edward Tonini helped to establish one of the first Contingency Response Groups in the nation, the 123rd CRG. In 2014, this premier unit deployed to Africa in support of Operation United Assistance, the international effort to battle the Ebola outbreak; and

WHEREAS, during General Tonini's tenure the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing was named the top airlift unit in the Air National Guard, receiving the Major General Stanley F.H. Newman Award from the Airlift Tanker Association, a group

of aviation professionals dedicated to the support of military airlift; and

WHEREAS, closer to home, General Edward Tonini was responsible for bringing the National Guard's Volunteer Workshop to Louisville. This was in conjunction with the first ever state-side USO concert, which was broadcast live on the Pentagon Channel to multiple United States military bases and ships around the world; and

WHEREAS, General Edward Tonini has continued to develop the Kentucky State Partnership Program, in which the Kentucky National guard has partnered with Ecuador for the past 19 years. In 2015, Kentucky was able to secure a second state partnership program with the Republic of Djibouti, being the first state to partner with a country in East Africa. Djibouti is a key strategic partner with the United States and is engaged in humanitarian and counter-terrorism operations throughout East Africa; and

WHEREAS, as Adjutant General, General Tonini's leadership extended well beyond the state lines. In 2013, he was elected President of the Adjutants General Association of the United States (AGAUS); and

WHEREAS, as AGAUS President, General Tonini led the effort to appoint a Commission on the Future of the United States Army in order to ensure the best possible defense of our nation. General Tonini fought to maintain an Attack Aviation capability in the National Guard. He partnered with the Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force in working to solve the problem of modernizing the C-130 fleet. General Tonini also helped stave off detrimental funding cuts two years in a row; and

WHEREAS, General Tonini hosted the two largest ongoing events in the nation for Survivor Outreach. Kentucky was fortunate to honor more than 850 survivors from multiple states at these events; and

WHEREAS, nearly ten years in the making, General Tonini worked diligently in the fundraising efforts for Kentucky National Guard Memorial. Located at the entrance of Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort, this memorial honors 234 Kentucky Guardsmen who have given their lives in the line of duty since 1912; and

WHEREAS, among the medals and awards General Edward Tonini has earned and been awarded during his extensive career are the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with 'M' Device and Gold Hourglass, Kentucky Distinguished Service Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, and Kentucky Service Ribbon with two Silver Oak Leaf Clusters;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The Senate is proud to honor Major General Edward Tonini for his dedication and commitment throughout his career in the United States Air National Guard and thanks him for his active leadership and longtime service to his country, Commonwealth, and community.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the Senate shall forward one copy of this Resolution to Major General (Retired) Edward Tonini at 12 Eastover Court, Louisville, Kentucky 40206.