

1 A RESOLUTION adjourning the House of Representatives in honor and loving
2 memory of Private First Class William F. Stehlin.

3 WHEREAS, Private First Class William F. Stehlin, of Dayton, Kentucky was born
4 on January 6, 1917; and

5 WHEREAS, William F. Stehlin was the son of Elizabeth Stehlin; he is survived by
6 a son, Bill Stehlin of Corbin, Kentucky; a nephew, Walter H. Stehlin of Burlington,
7 Kentucky; and he also left behind many other friends and family members who loved him
8 dearly; and

9 WHEREAS, Pfc. William F. Stehlin courageously volunteered for military service
10 on December 1, 1942, at a time when his country needed him most, when the peril of
11 World War II had reached its peak as Nazi forces had occupied most of Europe and
12 Northern Africa; and

13 WHEREAS, Pfc. William F. Stehlin was assigned to the 333rd Infantry Regiment,
14 84th Infantry Division, which was instrumental in the success of Operation Clipper, a
15 joint operation between the United States and Great Britain with the objective of clearing
16 Nazi forces from several towns in western Germany. On November 19, 1944, Pfc.
17 Stehlin's regiment led the way in assaults on Nazi positions in and around the town of
18 Süggerath, while ultimately succeeding in wiping out Nazi forces in the town of
19 Geilenkirchen; and

20 WHEREAS, Pfc. William F. Stehlin went missing near the town of Süggerath on
21 November 20, 1944, and in 1951 the Department of the Army declared that Pfc. William
22 F. Stehlin was killed in action and that his remains were unrecoverable; and

23 WHEREAS, in 2009 a German farmer found the remains of two American soldiers
24 on his farm in a wooded area near Süggerath, Germany, and after extensive forensic
25 testing the Department of Defense was able to determine that Pfc. William F. Stehlin was
26 among those whose remains were recovered; and

27 WHEREAS, more than 66 years after Pfc. William F. Stehlin went missing while

1 heroically serving his country in the fight against Nazi Germany, his remains were
2 brought back to his native country and he was buried among our nation's greatest heroes
3 on August 11, 2011, at Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors and
4 numerous awards and decorations, including the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart; and

5 WHEREAS, the passing of Pfc. William F. Stehlin has left a void that cannot be
6 filled, yet the discovery of his remains provides a bittersweet sense of closure for his
7 family as he is honored across the length and breadth of the Commonwealth;

8 NOW, THEREFORE,

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

11 ➔Section 1. The members of the House of Representatives do hereby express a
12 profound sense of gratitude upon the discovery of the remains of Pfc. William F. Stehlin
13 and extend to his family and many friends their most heartfelt sympathy.

14 ➔Section 2. When the House of Representatives adjourns this day, it does so in
15 loving memory and honor of Pfc. William F. Stehlin.

16 ➔Section 3. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is hereby directed to
17 transmit two copies of this Resolution to Walter H. Stehlin, 3153 Bullittsville Rd.,
18 Burlington, Kentucky 41005.