AN ACT relating to Women Veterans' Appreciation Day.

WHEREAS, women have proudly served their country throughout all periods of the history of the United States, whether disguised as male soldiers during the American Revolution and Civil War, as nurses in both World Wars, as combat helicopter pilots in Afghanistan, or in countless other ways; and

WHEREAS, women have formally been a part of the United States Armed Forces since the inception of the Army Nurse Corps in 1901, but have informally served since the inception of our nation's military; and

WHEREAS, veterans act with incredible honor and disregard personal well-being to preserve a gift of unapproachable magnitude for the citizens of this great nation in American freedom; and

WHEREAS, it was not until well after World War II that women who served in the military began to be officially recognized as veterans; and

WHEREAS, women who have served in the United States military are often referred to as "invisible veterans" because until the 1970s their service contributions went largely unrecognized; and

WHEREAS, there are currently over 2 million women veterans living in the United States and Puerto Rico, and of those 2 million, over 21 thousand live in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky honors the tremendous sacrifices our women in uniform have made in order to defend our country; and

WHEREAS, it is the Commonwealth's duty to honor the memory of our dedicated servicewomen who never returned home, having made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our nation and its way of life; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth pays special tribute to the valiant guardians of our freedom who remain listed as Missing in Action and offers our support to the loving families who hope for their safe return; and
WHEREAS, citizens of the United States of America owe an inexpressible debt to female veterans, and today we ask that their spirit never be forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the valor and devotion to duty demonstrated by current and past servicewomen have paved the way for future generations;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 2 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

The twelfth day of June of each year is designated as Women Veterans' Appreciation Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Section 2. The Governor shall issue a proclamation each year designating June 12 as Women Veterans' Appreciation Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and direct the executive branch to acknowledge the day in commemoration of the numerous contributions, sacrifices, and valor displayed by women veterans.