CHAPTER 6

(HB 200)

AN ACT relating to the commemoration of Kentucky Medal of Honor recipients.

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor, unofficially known as the "Congressional Medal of Honor," is America's highest military award for valor in combat; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Honor is typically awarded by the President of the United States, in the name of Congress, to recipients from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States of America serves as the keeper of the history of the Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, a Medal of Honor is accredited to the state in which the recipient enlisted in the military; and

WHEREAS, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, fewer than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded since the award's creation in 1861; and

WHEREAS, two Congressional Medal of Honor recipients are currently living in Kentucky: Ernest West and Don Jenkins; and

WHEREAS, to honor the Kentucky Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, the Kentucky Department of Veterans' Affairs is urged to offer all recipients, including those who are less than 70 percent service-connected disabled, admission to Kentucky state veterans' nursing homes at no cost;

NOW, THEREFORE,

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

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 42 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) To honor those who have been awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor, the United States' highest military award for valor in combat, the Department for Facilities and Support Services shall create a plaque to contain the names of each Kentucky Congressional Medal of Honor recipient.

(2) The Department for Facilities and Support Services shall be responsible for selecting a location on the first floor of the New State Capitol for the plaque required by subsection (1) of this section. The Department for Facilities and Support Services shall also be responsible for the design, installation, and routine maintenance of the plaque. The plaque shall be updated by the Department for Facilities and Support Services within six (6) months of a Congressional Medal of Honor nomination and approval accredited to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Signed by Governor March 9, 2011.