RESOLUTION NO. 8786

A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Jim Colson, requesting the Kansas Department of Transportation to install “Home of Harry W. Colmery, Author of the GI Bill” signs on the interstate highway around the city limits and retain the existing “Home of Ron Evans” signs

WHEREAS, the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act, also known as the “G.I. Bill” became law on June 22, 1944; and

WHEREAS, the G.I. Bill is one of the most significant laws in American history because it provided American soldiers returning from World War II and other military conflicts the financial resources to acquire education, obtain health benefits and secure low-interest loans; and

WHEREAS, the G.I. Bill transformed the United States both economically and socially by creating a middle class; and

WHEREAS, the architect of the G.I. Bill was Topeka’s own Harry W. Colmery: a World War I veteran, attorney and American Legion national commander who wanted veterans to avoid the unemployment and poverty that his fellow World War I veterans faced when returning from service; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to memorialize Mr. Colmery so that his efforts are not forgotten; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has a “Home Of” program allowing cities to request that a person’s name be placed on signs located at various points on the interstate highway in the vicinity of the city limits; and
WHEREAS, the current “Home Of” sign honors Astronaut Ron Evans, a graduate of Highland Park High School and the University of Kansas, who, as a member of Apollo 17, orbited the moon in 1972.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that:

(1) The Governing Body recognizes the efforts of Harry W. Colmery and is desirous of memorializing his name. As such, the Governing Body requests that KDOT install signs with the caption: “Home of Harry W. Colmery, Author of the GI Bill” at various points on the interstate highway around the city limits, as determined by KDOT; and

(2) The Governing Body requests that KDOT retain the “Home of Ron Evans” signs located on the interstate highway around the city limits.

ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body on June 21, 2016.

CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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Larry E. Wolgast, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk